

THE TIMES

The confusion that still exists over abortion, page 7

Tory and Labour leaders face party rifts on Healey plan

Wilson and Mrs Thatcher still face the spectre of serious splits in their respective parties over the Chancellor's forthcoming anti-inflation measures, despite a tough speech last night by Mr Healey to the Parliamentary Labour Party [Report, page 2]. However, the Government and the TUC seem nearer agreement on a voluntary pay policy, based on

£6 flat-rate rises for all, after a further meeting between the two sides. The TUC was relieved that the Yorkshire miners' demand for £100 a week for face workers was toned down at the union's conference to a more general formula. As part of Mr Healey's measures, the Government is preparing a contingency plan for direct control of some food prices [Report, page 2].

Thatcher aides may reject statutory policy

With the support of Mr Wilson and Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, that group has enough authority to swing a conclusive majority within the Cabinet. But clearly Mr Wilson will be anxious to avoid any possibility of resignation by Mr Foot, Secretary of State for Employment, who continues to stand by voluntarism. Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, who will not easily give up his challenge to Mr Wilson's leadership, and Mr Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services, who cannot forget that she was forced to abandon her own version of incomes policy, in place of Mr Foot's.

Mr Wilson and Mr Healey also have to calculate how far they can carry the Parliamentary Labour Party in yet another U-turn on incomes policy. The Labour left wing, as represented by the Tribune group with theoretically more than 80 members, may certainly be expected to produce between a dozen and a score of votes against any form of statutory incomes policy.

For her part, Mrs Thatcher knows that inside the Shadow Cabinet and within her parliamentary rank and file there is a minority that opposes any form of statutory incomes policy and that insists on monetarism and free market forces as the only realistic way of curbing inflation.

It happens, of course, that some of Mrs Thatcher's most ardent supporters in her challenge for the leadership were

members of that minority, and she cannot lightly dismiss their point of view.

On the evidence at Westminster yesterday there is little likelihood that Mrs Thatcher and the Shadow Cabinet could carry a united Opposition in support of the Government's counter-inflationary measures as they were sketched by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on July 1.

The question therefore arises how an opposition that has demanded action by the Government can be made to appear credible, or plausible, if a sizable block of backbenchers vote against government measures or abstain when the Commons debate takes place towards the end of next week.

No doubt the split within the Shadow Cabinet could be papered over, either by the form of words used in frontbench speeches or by a reasoned amendment to the government motion to approve the White Paper, but the differences within the rank and file could not be smoothed over.

Much as Mr Wilson and Mr Healey are needing time to convert the trade unions and the PLP to a statutory policy, so Mrs Thatcher will need time to reach a settlement within the Shadow Cabinet and the 1922 Committee.

That invests with importance the timing of the White Paper. In the Commons yesterday, Mr Short, Leader of the House, deputizing for Mr Wilson, would not commit himself to a publication date. Nevertheless



King Carl Gustaf of Sweden in the uniform of an admiral of the Royal Navy being welcomed by the Prince of Wales at Edinburgh yesterday at the start of his state visit. Court Circular, page 16.

Paris judge kidnapped at gunpoint in court

From Richard Wigg
Paris, July 8

Less than one week after a French investigating magistrate was ambushed and killed by gangsters, a 31-year-old Parisian with a long criminal record today staged the kidnapping of the judge who was about to try him in the Paris Courts of Justice. The kidnapper escaped with the judge handcuffed in a car.

Judge Andre Cozette, the 60-year-old President of the Court, was later found, together with another court official, handcuffed to the abandoned car on the outskirts of Paris. But Mr Rene Guillaume, the police commander, who tried to stop the kidnapping, was severely wounded in the stomach by Jean-Charles Wilfrid, the kidnapper, who fled.

The sudden eruption of such violence, all within a few days, will inevitably heighten demands that the authorities take exceptional measures to protect law officers from ordinary criminals.

The kidnapping of Judge Cozette was staged with the help of the prisoner's wife, M. Willoquet, sentenced for more than 20 robberies of banks and post offices during 1972 and 1973, married his 24-year-old wife three months ago, while in prison.

He was standing in the dock today, due to answer relatively minor charges, when a young woman dressed in a barrister's robe suddenly approached him. She took out a grenade from under her gown and told the court that, if anyone moved, she would throw it.

The prisoner in turn produced a pistol and ordered the judge to accompany him. He seized M. Antoine Michel, a second court official, at the same time.

The weapon had been handed to him by his wife. As the prisoner to the court with his hostages and his wife down the long corridors of the Palace of Justice, the police commander in charge of security tried to stop them. The prisoner shot his way free, however, injuring the commander seriously and another policeman slightly.

Final Callaghan plea to save Mr Hills

From David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent
Kinshasa, July 8

Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, his Deputy Under Secretary in Charge of Africa at the Foreign Office, the head of the East Africa Department, his political and press advisers were in Kinshasa today, all hoping to secure the release from prison of one British subject, Mr Denis Hills, 1,000 miles away in Kampala, Uganda.

Mr Callaghan, who began his visit this evening with a talk with M. Bula, the Zairean Foreign Minister, will meet President Mobutu over breakfast tomorrow to hear his views and enlist his support.

President Mobutu holds the key to the release of Mr Hills, because General Amin has entrusted him with the whole affair. The crucial statement by General Amin a week ago was: "I leave everything to President Mobutu."

After hearing what the President has to say, Mr Callaghan will decide whether to fly to Kampala to see General Amin. "I am comforted by the fact that President Amin has said he has great confidence in President Mobutu," Mr Callaghan said tonight.

It is understood that President Mobutu takes a generous view of the matter. Even so, it cannot be taken for granted that a recommendation for a pardon for Mr Hills would be accepted by General Amin. But Mr Callaghan would certainly feel encouraged to go to Kampala tomorrow and try his best, and face the risk of a personal setback.

Behind this manoeuvring between Kinshasa and Kampala lies a deeper African concern, namely the forthcoming meeting of the Organization of African Unity in Kampala.

If General Amin should decide to act harshly towards Mr Hills, after all that has been said in Mr Hills's favour by African governments, it would offend many of the leaders who are to attend the OAU meeting, perhaps seriously, and might provoke direct criticism of Uganda.

In a sense, therefore, the fate of Mr Hills has been overlaid by African politics, in which the position of General Amin as the host and new chairman of the OAU has become highly sensitive. General Amin's position as chairman now seems to be accepted by African governments, but he is presumably well aware of their concern.

The visit by Mr Callaghan to Kampala, if it works out as intended, may be a basis for a better understanding.

Our Nairobi Correspondent writes: President Amin arrived in Nairobi this afternoon from Mogadishu, where he has been having talks with President Siad Barre of Somalia, present chairman of the OAU. He then flew to Nakuru, 100 miles from Nairobi, for talks with President Kenyatta.

The visit was not announced in advance here and it was not announced from Uganda, although Uganda radio this evening said that the general would return by helicopter tomorrow. No mention of Mr Callaghan's trip to Africa has been made.

UC and Cabinet draw closer on £6-rise plan

From Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

The National Union of Mineworkers, at their Scarborough conference, have agreed a £100-a-week pay claim yesterday, but the political tensions underlying the wage argument inside the union remained unresolved after a bitter, personal debate.

Left-wingers and moderates claimed a famous victory after a composite resolution had been accepted unanimously by the NUM policy-making conference at Scarborough, and Mr Eddie Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Energy, said it was a "responsible" declaration of policy which gave the miners' leaders room for manoeuvre.

TUC leaders meeting today to put the seal of approval on proposals to limit pay increases to 25-a-week flat-rate rises for all workers will be relieved that the Yorkshire miners' militant demand for rises of up to £39 a week has been toned down to a generalized formula.

The successful resolution calls on the miners' executive to enter into negotiations with the National Coal Board to seek pay of £100 a week for face workers with consequential increases for other grades in the industry. In the event of an "unsatisfactory offer" from the board the union leadership is to consult the members "in accordance with rule 1", which could mean either that they are asked to accept the offer or pursue industrial action.

Another area on which many of the general council members, representing blue-collar and white-collar workers, feel strongly is the Chancellor's proposal that any stages of wage agreement already signed and due to be paid after August 1 should be frozen. The government estimate is that four million workers are in that position, more than a third of the TUC membership.

However, the mood in the TUC economic committee after last night's discussions was one of quiet optimism that its plan has been accepted by the Chancellor and that with only slight amendments, on which the TUC is prepared to give way, it will form the Government's policy.

One main area of disagreement between the TUC and the Government is on the limit beyond which no rises should be paid. Mr Healey still maintains that it should be £10,000 a year, but the TUC leaders feel that it should be £7,000, and Mr Murray said last night that he felt that people earning more than that sum should even be considering whether they should take a cut.

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Pit militants accept pay plan compromise

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Paris air crash victims

Amesbury, July 8.—Relief 346 today when the DC10 jet crashed near Paris, were told today compensatory damages be paid.

Defendants in an action brought by 322 victims, said they were willing to accept the exact amount, although the TUC was not announced.

Four defendants are: Douglas Corporation General Dynamics, the makers of the DC10, Turkish Airlines, owners of the aircraft, and American Federal Aviation Administration, which certifies aircraft to fly.

The crash was the worst in aviation history. A large door blew out after ripping control lines.

16-year-olds may leave school at spring holiday

Children of 16 will be able to leave school at the spring Bank holiday instead of the end of term under a new law which is to be introduced, Mr Muller, Secretary of State for Education, said yesterday. That means that the minister has a place in the legislative programme (our Education Correspondent writes) for a Bill that will probably also compel "rebel" schools to submit plans to close grammar schools.

Israel denies report on agreement

Israel denied yesterday a report that negotiations for an interim agreement with Egypt were nearly completed. Mr Rabin, the Prime Minister, before leaving for West Germany, where he is to meet Dr Kissinger on Saturday, advised against speculation on a deal before it is reached. In Cairo, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, expressed surprise at the report.

fish camping

July 8.—A family of four were found dead suspected food poisoning camp site at Chantegillet, St Etienne, today.

St Etienne police identified the four this evening as Peter Davies, aged 40, his wife and their two children, aged 14 and a boy of nine, gave their address as...

Giveaway Concorde

Industrial espionage in certain European machine tool firms has resulted in the plans for building Concorde being handed over to the Soviet Union in total. Mr Norton, Conservative MP, told the European Parliament in Strasbourg yesterday.

Diamonds riddle

After 95 years of argument, a scientist offers an answer to the question whether the Hanany diamonds were manufactured. Using a new method of analysis, Dr Alan Collins, of King's College London, has shown that all nine stones are of natural origin.

Señora Perón gives in

Señora Perón, President of Argentina, has given way to union demands for approval of pay rises of up to 150 per cent. She had tried to peg increases to 50 per cent. She also agreed to dismiss three of her ministers, but insisted on keeping Señor Lopez Rega as her secretary.

Features, pages 7 and 14

Marianne Helberg on the way the Basques have remained a political force in Spain; Andrew Faulds says that extremists have defected away support for the Labour Party; Michael Leppman reports on the Labour Party's debut in Strasbourg at the European Parliament; Sir William Hodge, Mr Frank McDermott; Stock market: Gilt-edged stocks rose strongly yesterday, and equities were also firmer. The FT index gained 8.7 to 336.4; Financial Editor: Borrowing trends and capital investment; heads down at Tunnel Holdings; an alternative source of funds for Eddman Jones; Business features: The pay questions the employers will want answered in Mr Healey's White Paper are discussed by Maurice Cortis; Business Diary: Birds Eye in the soup over opportunities for women; Wall Street view of Brilior's life

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Juniors turn down BMA sanctions

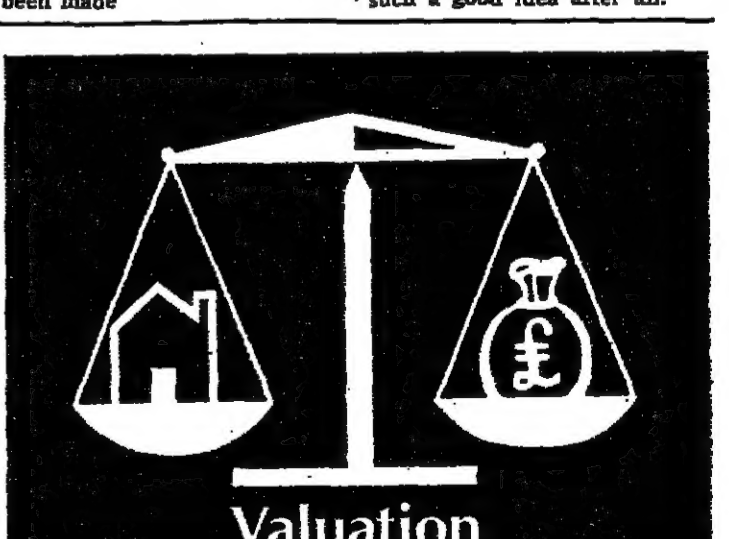
From John Roper
Leeds

The Junior Hospital Doctors' Association, representing more than 5,000 members, said last night that it questioned the wisdom of a decision by the British Medical Association at its conference in Leeds yesterday to impose sanctions if the Government refused to implement a new 40-hour week contract for junior hospital doctors. Its statement added: "While we support any effort to increase the pay of junior hospital doctors, we do not feel that the BMA's new contract goes far enough towards correcting the basic problems of career structure, job security and training that are every bit as important to juniors as cash and hours of work."

For these reasons, we do not believe that the BMA will get the support of the great majority of junior hospital doctors in Britain if and when they call for industrial action over this contract. As the BMA have not committed with the majority of junior doctors over this new contract, we do not feel that the public should be made to suffer over this particular issue.

John Roper writes from Leeds: Junior hospital doctors were given virtually unanimous support by their consultant colleagues and general practitioners yesterday for a motion that if the Government does not implement their new 40-hour contract, properly priced, by October 1, industrial action will be taken. The decision came at the annual representative meeting of the British Medical Association, in Leeds.

A proviso was that action would be subject to the overriding legislation of the day, as a safeguard that the juniors will not break any law that might be in effect. Industrial action would take the form of non-cooperation and a work-to-rule, which would undoubtedly quickly paralysed the hospital service.



How much do you value your valuer?

Valuations are required annually by law in the case of limited companies and every three years in the case of insurance companies. Valuations also form the basis of gearing an operation both in good times and bad.

Gearing on the basis of a 1972 valuation could well result in over extension in 1975. Values are volatile and returns fluctuate wildly in times of economic uncertainty. Where prime property yielded 4% to 4½% in 1973, it yields between 7% and 8% in 1975.

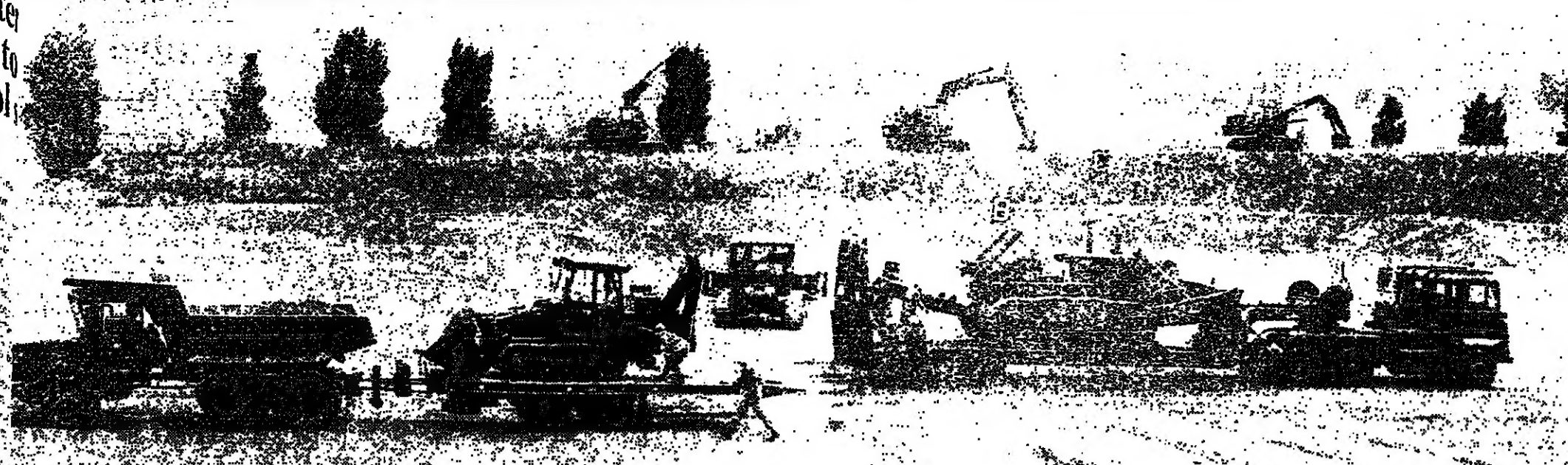
Regular valuations are necessary not merely for the provision of full management information. They are essential for the control of orderly expansion in the good times and proper retrenchment in the bad.

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Minister ready to control prices

ME NEWS



al Engineers demonstrating plant used in military operations, including crawler excavators, at Chattenden Barracks, Rochester, yesterday.

Worst-off law centres get year's reprieve

Lord Chancellor Lord Elwyn Jones, Lord Chancellor, announced that he would make £50,000 available to them for current financial year, out of this money, five of £5 centres in England would be closed, but he said that this would not be done until the next financial year.

It is marvellous. Without this money we would have had to close in September. But he was disappointed that no longer-term decisions had been taken on the financing of law centres, which would enable them to expand and not simply cover their annual deficits.

Larry Adler cleared of stealing toffees

Larry Adler, the American harmonica player, was cleared yesterday of stealing two boxes of toffees from a shop in Piccadilly, London. Sir Frank Milton, the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, decided at Bow Street court that Mr Adler had no case to answer after hearing that he left the shop because he did not like queues.

New rules on violent pupils urged

By Tim Devlin Education Correspondent Changes in regulations concerning violent and disruptive pupils in schools were urged yesterday by Mr Mulley, Secretary of State for Education and Science, by Mr Terry Casey, leader of the National Association of Schoolmasters.

one of those special centres. He had not been categorized by an educational psychiatrist as "clinically maladjusted". A private inquiry under Mr Leonard Fyling, former chief inspector with the Inner London Education Authority, has been set up to resolve the dispute, which caused the county to close the school earlier this term.

Mr Casey urged Mr Mulley to be seen to back authorities who prosecuted children and parents who assaulted teachers. Otherwise teachers would feel that no one in authority cared and would give up the struggle against disruptive children.

Paris terrorist linked with London attack

By Stewart Tendler Detectives hunting Illich Ramirez Sanchez, now thought to be the real name of Carlos Martinez, are investigating the terrorist's possible connexion with the shooting of Mr J. Edward Sieff in 1973.

initiated the hunt for Carlos Martinez after he had killed two policemen and a Lebanese prisoner, believe he has connections with string of terrorist groups including those in the Middle East. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine claimed responsibility for the shooting of Mr Sieff.

Authority orders body-scanner The North Western Regional Health Authority, which runs 150 hospitals between Stockport and Lancaster, is to spend £250,000 on the first production model of the EMI whole body-scanner.

£1.4m building's 'deficiencies' New Many government offices in Douglas costing £1,286,000 and due to be occupied by more than 300 civil servants by the end of the month have "deficiencies" in their fire-safety provisions. Now the building's fire safety is to be re-examined, a Manx government spokesman said yesterday.

damages award £2 raised £350,000

Evans Marshall SA, the Spanish ry. company, which was put on Monday to pay £500,000 in damages to Evans Marshall & Co. the London wine shippers, refused leave to appeal to House of Lords yesterday.

Regional policies found to work better in Wales

From Trevor Fishlock Cardiff The variety of government regional policies work better in Wales than in any other assisted area in Britain, but they are still not good enough, says a report published today.

three times more effective than it actually was. The report is the outcome of an independent study by Mr Barry Moore and Mr John Rhodes of the applied economics department at Cambridge University. Their work was commissioned by the Welsh Office.

about councillors urged declare gifts over £5

ur Political Staff a committee set up by the ur Party to investigate the conduct at local government level recommends moral discipline for Labour councillors.

mends that a voluntary register of interests should be open to inspection. Groups should avoid placing on a committee any member whose professional interests are involved in the committee's work, and it is undesirable, other than in exceptional circumstances, for a member to serve on a county council and a district council at the same time.

Mr Heath feels the 'winds of moderation'

From Our Own Correspondent Paris, July 8 The "winds of moderation" have begun to blow in Britain, Mr Edward Heath declared today at Chateau Loudenne, near Bordeaux.

Shrewsbury 'ket might released soon

Eric Tomlinson, one of Shrewsbury two "building pickets, might be released prison next weekend, if role Board, which is carrying a special review of his recommendations, his release.

£700m Glasgow scheme to end 'deprived' tag

A £700m programme aimed at ending Glasgow's position as a "deprived area" has been drawn up by the city's district council, after talks with government ministers.

Teachers' merger

The Association of Teachers in Colleges and Departments of Education, which has 6,250 members, has voted to merge with the 50,000-strong Association of Teachers in Technical Institutions.

Fuel coupons 'obsolete'

Ration books and coupons for petrol and Derv issued during the 1973-74 fuel emergency are now obsolete and can be destroyed, Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, told the Commons yesterday.



The L-1011 TriStar. Take comfort in the fuel it saves.

Narrow-body jets, 65% occupied (a typical passenger load), burn 87 gallons of fuel per passenger cross-country. The L-1011 TriStar, 65% occupied, burns only 66 gallons per passenger. That works out to around 40 miles to the gallon — mileage even an economy car owner can envy. And mighty comforting these days when we're all trying to cut down on fuel.

Inside, you get more legroom, more shoulder room, more elbowroom. Seats are wider. Even the lavatories on the L-1011 are bigger. And they're placed where they're more accessible. The Lockheed L-1011 TriStar. Take comfort in the fuel it saves. And take comfort in its comforts.



The Lockheed L-1011 TriStar. The Big fuel saver.

Local authorities face the fact that cuts in services are almost inevitable next year

With the Government's White Paper package expected on Friday, no decisions were taken and no cuts were given in detail, but the council will meet again soon, probably within the next fortnight, so that the Government can discuss in detail with local government the implications of local authority

Mr Pickering said that local government must know before the parliamentary recess for the summer if there were to be cuts and where they were to be made so that local authorities could plan their budgets. Normally local government did not know until November what the government grant would be,

for a limit of 25 or 30 per cent, "it will not do for rents and rates to go sky high. That would make nonsense".

Sir Lou said the meeting showed that a sense of reality was creeping into discussions between central and local government on the need to contain expenditure.

The question remained: had J. B. Hannay made diamonds more than seventy years before the technologists of the 1950s

Mr Alfred Bertrand, a Belgian Christian Democrat. It proposes that there should be a single decision-making body which will be in the nature of a European Government. "Independent of the national governments and responsible to the European Parliament" which will be directly elected.

As he indicated at a press conference yesterday, Mr Stewart believes that nothing should be done which implies that the European Parliament is in favour of changing the present defence arrangement.

found no support from any of the other parties. They all want to give a clear indication to the heads of Government next week about the way in which they want European unification to proceed. The crucial votes will be taken on Thursday.

Mr. Simonet's response which enlivened an otherwise dull debate on the Community's energy policy was provoked by questions from Mr Tom Dalyell (Labour, West Lothian) and Mr J. Osborn (Conservative, Strathfield Hallam).

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"My consideration of the annual estimates of these institutions", Mr Jenkins told Mr R. C. Mitchell, MP for Southampton, Itchen, "will therefore in future be concerned more with policy and long-term objectives and less with detailed items of expenditure."

Mr Christopher Hordern, prosecuting for the Director of Public Prosecutions, told the court that the client, Richard Cookson, aged 19, was taken to hospital with injuries after his

of absolute grief, with the dead boy's mother being comforted by relatives. In the middle of it all, carol singers began singing. He added that Mr Cookson was unable to understand what was being said because of his state of mind and injuries and was not fit to take a breath test.

Indeed, Hannay and some of his contemporaries were working along the right lines for producing the synthetic product, and were defeated by the limitations of technology in their day.

Some progress has been achieved in the formulation of follow-up measures. But the Turks are said still to be adamant on a more restricted zone—62 miles applying only to

150 miles of frontiers and applying to troop strengths of upwards of 25,000.

Despite the various last-ditch obdurances, many delegates remain confident that the conference will be successfully concluded within a week.

Exiles from the small West African country also claimed that priests of the island province of Francisco Macias are no longer allowed to say Mass. The Rio Muni priests, numbering between 15 and 20, were

The apparent official reason for the round up of priests and nuns is the reluctance of clergymen to read out required texts of praise for the President during religious services.

...leave the
...hours. And
...told
...was con-
...Bureau.
...deteriora-
...the 1960's.

Mr David Middleweek, for the defence, said Mrs Wilman would deny the murder charge.

The RHS Lily Group has exhibited a group of hybrids, including good blooms of *Lilium superbum*, L. 'Sonata', light salmon, and L. 'Greta Garbo'.

seented. Lady Russell cup, and one vase, J. C. Lockwood cup, J. Galsball. Hoffman; one vase, J. Galsball. Orange cup, E. J. Dungey, Luker. Aggregate points. R. Thain cup, J. Galsball. Three vase classes, aggregate of points. Lockwood cup, and single vase classes. Martin Smith cup; C. C. King. Origination. Two bloom classes. J. B. Wells trophy; T. Dungey.

variety Alice Hardwick 17 Warwick
cup for the best vase in Division V.
J. A. Ruffon, Nuneaton (variety
Noel Sutton) 11 Randall cup for best
vase in Division VI. A. J. James
(variety Alice Hardwick) 1.

Community and in Austria. He said they received the Concorde's designs in the course of contracts under which they were to design machine tools for the construc-

Our Air Correspondent writes: Mr Normanton gave voice to rumours which have been heard for many years in the

Arabians had wanted to study the results of noise level tests on the first proving flight on Monday before giving the all-clear.

Parliamentary report, page 6

Others involved received sentences of up to four years in jail. Their plot was to base demands for independence in the South Moluccan islands. Reuter.

1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

1

هَذَا مِنْ أَلْفَا

10

...round with assorted currency and travellers' cheques worth about £120,000 as they were about to board an aircraft for London

Photographs

Commander Catarino Salgado, expelled the officer to Lisbon. Commander Salgado refused, saying that in accordance with Portuguese Navy law, an inquiry should first have been held. This attitude resulted in the Governor dismissing Commander Salgado from his post and ordering him to be deported to Lisbon.

The affair could also affect the fate of Portuguese Timor, which is at present trying to win independence.

PARLIAMENT, July 8, 1975

The search for consent: political courage promised on pay policy

House of Commons

MR EDWARD SHORT (Leamington Spa, Conservative) said: The Prime Minister, in the absence of the Prime Minister, has been asked to answer questions about the Government's policy on incomes, said he refused to believe that the two sides of industry could not come together to reach a voluntary agreement to get the country out of its present difficulties and reduce the rate of inflation to the level of their major competitors.

The questions began when MR NIGEL LAWSON (Babington, Conservative) said: Only eight weeks ago the Prime Minister appeared on television and said that in no circumstances short of war would he contemplate introducing statutory pay controls of any kind—I repeat, of any kind. On what date did he break out?

MR SHORT (Newcastle upon Tyne, Conservative) said: The Prime Minister also said in the election that the combating of inflation was top priority. We hope to reach agreement on voluntary policy with the unions and the CBI.

MR HEFFER (Liverpool, Labour) said: On this date, the Labour movement in the country, it is expected that we should carry out a programme of statutory legislation on wages.

The other important ideas of combatting inflation must be adopted by the Government rather than a policy which, if put into

operation, could tear this movement of ours to pieces.

MR SHORT—There must be a battery of measures to combat inflation. The greatest danger facing the country, the people and their employment prospects, is inflation, and that must be tackled without delay.

MR THORPE (North Devon, Conservative) said: The Chancellor has been more than untruthful in the OECD figures published today, showing the rate of inflation is second only to Iceland.

If it is the Government's proposal that employers are to be the enforcement officers for the Government's pay policy, it will be as fruitless and unfair as having the trade unions as the enforcement officers.

MR SHORT—The proposals we are discussing are the Government's proposals, and we shall see they are carried out.

The Government are resolutely opposed to imposing criminal sanctions on work people. The previous Government tried that and failed. The Solicitor General has to save them. He did not want a repeat of that.

MR SKINNER (Bolsover, Labour) said: At the recent meetings with the TUC in respect of rent control, food price control, import sur-

charges and also some action on the foreign exchanges with respect to capital movements?

There are many people inside the Parliamentary Labour Party who are to some extent responding to the mood of the party outside and who will not in any circumstances repeat the ill-fated exercise gone through between 1966 and 1970 and march through the lobbies, which means in effect endorsing in some way the free collective bargaining which we received a mandate to operate in the last two elections.

MR SHORT—The Government will take account of any points put by the TUC and discuss them. Mr Skinner should wait for the White Paper shortly, within a few days, and see to what extent we have been able to reach agreement with the two sides of industry.

MR THATCHER (Leader of the Opposition) (Barnet, Conservative) said: I am interested in information about what is happening, except what we read in the press. Will he confirm the Chancellor's statement last Tuesday that every commitment in it still stands, in particular the 10 per cent increase on pay limits and the kind of massive unemployment which lays ahead of us?

MR SHORT—We hope to have a voluntary agreement on incomes. Mr Taylor is premature in talking about operating a statutory policy.

Both the 10 per cent and cash limit proposals remain. It is a great pity that the Opposition did not improve their position when they were in office. (Conservative interruptions and protests.)

Later MR FREUD (Hale, Conservative) said: As the Prime Minister yesterday teaching the economic face of life to the miners, Mr Short might try to persuade Mr Wilson to have a similar exercise with the Fabian Group tomorrow. (Laughter.)

MR RADICE (Chester-le-Street, Labour) said: Will Mr Short tell the Prime Minister the Labour supporters are behind the Government's efforts to create an effective price and income policy based on consent.

MR SHORT—I am sure Mr Radice is right and that what he says will commend itself not only to Labour but to the people of the country.

MR EDWARD TAYLOR (Glasgow, Conservative) said: Does he think that the Secretary of State for Employment (Mr Foot) will need a bit of help? Who is going to take personal authority for a statutory incomes policy? Is the Department of Employment fully geared to the kind of massive unemployment which lays ahead of us?

MR SHORT—We hope to have a voluntary agreement on incomes. Mr Taylor is premature in talking about operating a statutory policy.

Unemployment is far too high, but it is less than the country than that of our competitors.

MR MOLLOY (Ealing, North, Labour) said: The principle of consultation in industrial relations is to be preferred to the forthrightness of confrontation. The statements made yesterday by Mr Wilson and Mr Joe Gormley in the House must show that jaw-jaw in industrial relations is better than war war.

MR SHORT—He is right. There is no way out of our problems except by consent and consensus.

MR SHORT added later: A call for massive public expenditure cuts by the Opposition is a call for a policy which would solve our inflationary problem. This Government reject it entirely.

MR EVELYN KING (South Dorset, Conservative) said: We have now reached the point where consultation with trade unions or with the CBI is seen as an effort by the Government simply to transfer responsibility to someone else. It is time they took their own responsibility and showed more political courage than they have so far shown. (Conservative cheers.)

MR SHORT—The Government will certainly show political courage as Labour Governments

have always shown. (Conservative laughter.) Mr King is living in a world which no longer exists. Today we can only judge by what we are trying to achieve over the next few days.

MR CRYER (Kelchley, Labour) said: There is far too much emphasis on wages as the primary cause of inflation. The recent devaluation of sterling was a large cause of the increase in costs which cooking people have to pay. Will he urge on his colleagues in the Cabinet that some action to control speculation is needed?

MR SHORT—A recent Price Commission report showed that 30 to 60 per cent of recent price increases were due to labour costs. We cannot get away from the fact that labour is the main cause.

MR THATCHER (If what he said about public expenditure is right then what the Chancellor of the Exchequer said last Tuesday was wrong. It is time to consider public expenditure in the short term is wrong. Which is correct? (Conservative cheers.)

MR SHORT—Mrs Thatcher was to make massive cuts in public expenditure. (Conservative cries of "Answer".) Perhaps in one of her weekend speeches she will tell us which public expenditure cuts she is going to make and what are the employment consequences of the cuts she has in mind. (Labour cheers and Conservative interruptions.)

Number of doctors going overseas not causing crisis

MR NORMAN FOWLER (Sutton Coldfield, Conservative) said: The Secretary of State for Health has asked me to estimate the extent to which the emigration of doctors was increasing.

MR BARBARA CASTLE (Blackburn, Labour) said: Migration of British doctors overseas in recent years about 800 have left in a year, some only temporarily, while about 300 return annually. The net loss is about 500. The migration in the year ending September 30, 1974, was similar.

More recently, returns of those who say that they intend to emigrate on leaving the NHS are suggesting some increase in emigration.

MR FOWLER—The tragedy of this situation is that many of the doctors and consultants who have emigrated or who are considering emigration have worked for many years in the NHS and would like to continue. This alarming migration affects the crisis of the medical profession, the time has come for Mrs Castle to start listening to the medical profession rather than rising robed over her ears. (Conservative cheers.)

MR CASTLE—What Mr Fowler conveniently overlooks is that what I did, with the help of my colleagues, was to give the medical profession the biggest incentive for a long time under the recent review body procedure. I found when I took over this job that morale was low down to the ground, not on pay of consultants and other people in the medical profession under the previous Conservative Government. I found it necessary to do it to mend the damaged morale I inherited.

MR MOLLOY (Ealing, North, Labour) said: While there are many doctors who are genuinely concerned with the future of the health ser-

vice, this old threat of leaving Great Britain and going elsewhere has been going on since the service was created. Some of them carried out their threat and had to be bailed out and brought home.

MR CASTLE—Often alarmist reports are spread which exaggerate the loss of doctors. There is cause for concern if migration increases, but there is not a crisis at present. It is important to remember that the NHS does not employ all doctors in the country and statistics that we have for earlier years suggest that less than half of those migrating at any one time did so from the NHS.

MR GOODHART (Bromley, Beckenham, Conservative) said: The unnecessary row about the compensation of private practice is adding to the migration rate.

MR CASTLE—I do not accept that. One of the problems we face is that often doctors and other members of the medical profession are attracted by superior facilities rather than rising robed over their ears. That is why it is in the interest of all of us to preserve the strength and extent of our NHS.

MR CRYER (Kelchley, Labour) said: The General Secretary of the BMA saw the Common Market as an opportunity for doctors to escape from the so-called shackles of the NHS. It is a strange business that the Opposition call on ministers to lock down the railway gates to patriotic and to work for their country, yet this doctrine seems to apply to doctors.

MR CASTLE—He has admirably summed up the hypocrisy of Conservative MPs.

Childbirth not production line job—Mrs Wise

MRS AUDREY WISE (Covey, South-West, Labour) said: The Secretary of State for Social Services could give any information as a result of the inquiry into the incidence of birth which was commenced in December 1974.

DR OWEN, Minister of State for Health (Plymouth, Devonport, Labour) said: So far studies have been completed at five out of the eight hospitals to be visited; the delay followed the hospital consultants' dispute. The inquiry should now be completed in the autumn.

I shall then have the results of the pilot survey of attitudes by the Institute for Social Studies in Medical Care.

MRS WISE—This is a matter which is causing worry to many women. Many of us think this is urgent. In view of the delay will he advise hospitals that this process should not be increased as the birth process is one which is not suitable for more mechanization?

DR OWEN—I share her concern, which is widespread particularly among women. I would be wrong to intervene until I have had the initial information, but I will consider the question of issuing guidance in the light of the information we shall receive in the late autumn.

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Range of policies needed to tackle smoking

MR BEITH (Berwick upon Tweed, Labour) asked whether the Secretary of State for Health would introduce legislation to ban cigarette advertising.

DR OWEN, Minister of State for Health—There is good evidence that cigarette advertising increases cigarette smoking and it is a fact that cigarettes kill many people each year. The most recent estimate is 50,000 premature deaths a year in Great Britain.

The Government have not made any decisions whether or not to legislate but they are currently reviewing all the health aspects of the problem.

MR BEITH—As long ago as 1967 a Labour Government indicated a willingness to introduce legislation and the longer he delays trying to work out a ban, the more it is likely to be ineffective. More young people will be induced to take up smoking and thereby shorten their lives.

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any view it is a serious health hazard. Many people hoped that as a result of the discussion of decisions in 1967 the industry would reduce its promotional activity and we would see a reduction in cigarette smoking.

We entered into negotiations with the industry in a serious attempt to make a voluntary agreement to reduce cigarette smoking. The industry recently to say I still think it is inadequate.

MR RONALD ATKINS (Preston, North, Labour) asked about increasing advertising in the last few years and for a prohibition on advertisements for alcoholic drinks.

DR OWEN—The Government are going to produce a consultative paper on this subject which will cover cigarette smoking and other health hazards.

MR BOSCAWEN (Wells, Conservative) said: A curious result is that a total ban on cigarette advertisements in other media would be a disaster for the effect—an increase in smoking and not a decrease.

DR OWEN—I have never hidden

vacuum left by the withdrawal of western forces.

Unrestricted arms sales to the Middle East could only work in the favour of the Arabs who had more money and more sophisticated equipment than the Israelis.

Britain needed to export arms and to seek security. Perhaps the way out of the dilemma lay in Europe. By a combination of arms exports and arms sales to the United States, Britain could have vast sums of money to spend on the defence of the United Kingdom.

A European arms procurement agency could offer a means of producing arms more efficiently and controlling arms exports to third parties.

MR WILLIAM RODGERS (Teesside, Stockton, Labour) said: It is fully recognized that the arms trade is a distasteful business, but it is a reality of the world of revolution in that part of the world.

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Defence sales organization deserves a protection in face of innuendo

MR CRITCHLEY (Aldershot, Conservative) opened a debate on arms sales, said that those who suggested the arms trade was immoral and a dirty business should live with the consequences.

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Mr Stonehouse has 'cocked successive snooks' at Commons

MR WILLIAM HAMILTON (Central Fife, Labour) was given leave by 34 votes to 50 to bring in the House of Commons Disqualification (Amendment) Bill to provide for the disqualification of MPs on account of failure to attend the House without reasonable cause.

He said his purpose was to attempt to treat MPs no more favourably than local councillors in respect of attendance and to remove the stigma, widely held outside, that the Commons was the best club in Britain and did not allow its members to be absent for no matter how badly they attended or behaved, and that MPs were a bunch of men and women on a holiday.

The case of Mr John Stonehouse (West Lothian, Labour) was troubling every MP and exercising the minds and anger of people outside the House across the whole political spectrum. Stonehouse had been absent from the House for 10 days and had been absent from the House for 10 days.

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Abortion: the danger of confusing responsibility with punishment

anne McLaren, reproductive biologist, Director of the Fetal Research Unit, contributes this week's column in International Women's Year series. McLaren expresses her own.



What is easy to get right, harder in London, and still in Birmingham? could soon, in spite of the non Market, become scarce in Britain though more available in France and Italy.

A legal abortion, since the 1967 Abortion Act, legal abortion business has been fewer women have admitted to hospital with septic abortion, and have died from this cause in 1965, only 12 in 1973.

abortion increased for first few years, but have levelled off at about nine per cent of live birth—one of the lowest rates in the world. enormous amount of individual suffering, both physical and mental, has been eased.

et all is not perfect. The legal abortion business is overdone, and bureaucratic delays and. Terminations of pregnancies later than 12 weeks upped from 34 per cent of total in 1969 to 19 per cent in 1973; but 19 per cent is still high. Regional variations in the NHS remain as great as ever. A woman in Newcastle London is three times as likely to be successful in getting an NHS abortion as a woman in Birmingham. More than half women who have had legal abortions since 1967 have had to pay for them in the private sector, where there have been abuses, as overcharging.

1971 the Government appointed the Lane Committee to review the working of the Act; its recommendations, published in 1974, led to the introduction of new administrative measures by the Department of Health, designed to prevent such abuses. In February, 1975, Mr. Whitelaw's Abortion (Amendment) Bill was referred to the House of Commons to a Select Committee, which has been reviewing the issues. The Bill, which would be passed, the position of doctors would become difficult in many ways: for example, in any

criminal proceedings arising from the new Bill, the "onus of proof" that all regulations had been satisfied would "rest on the accused person", an unusual requirement under British law.

The proposed grounds on which the new Bill would permit a pregnancy to be terminated would be that its continuance posed a "grave risk to the life" or a "risk of serious injury to the physical or mental health" of the pregnant woman. How are these words to be interpreted? Chambers's dictionary defines grave as "of importance, serious, not gay or showy, etc"; serious: grave, not to be taken lightly, approaching the critical or dangerous, etc". The 1967 Act is more precise as well as more liberal: it permits an abortion whenever the risks to the woman of continuing a pregnancy are greater than the risks of terminating it. It also allows the woman's environment to be taken into consideration.

Worst of all perhaps, in an area where ignorance and misinformation abound, is the restriction that would be placed on social, medical and educational authorities seeking to provide advice or information on abortion. It would become a punishable offence for such people to advise a pregnant woman even to ask her doctor for information. There is no doubt that if Mr. Whitelaw's Amendment were to become law, the possibility of obtaining a legal abortion would become very much more remote than at present. There would be an inevitable increase in illegal and even "do-it-yourself" abortions. Meanwhile, in January, 1975, both France and Austria passed

legislation allowing abortion on demand for any woman during the first 10 weeks of pregnancy. In recent years up to two-thirds of women from overseas obtaining abortions (non-NHS) in this country have been from France: this traffic will presumably now come to an end.

Modern methods of vacuum extraction of the uterus allow pregnancies of up to 12 weeks to be terminated rapidly and safely, on an out-patient basis. The diagnosis of pregnancy can now be confirmed as early as the first missed period, at a time when most women have not even begun to feel pregnant. The earlier the termination, the less physical and emotional trauma occurs.

In any country and in any circumstances, abortion is disagreeable and contraception is preferable. When our free family-planning service is extended and made more accessible to those in greatest need, the number of women wanting abortions will decline. Some find abortion totally repugnant, or morally unacceptable; the final decision as to whether a pregnancy be terminated must therefore always be up to the woman herself, even when the focus is known to be afflicted with some crippling genetic defect. Others find the idea of compulsory motherhood and unwanted children totally repugnant or morally unacceptable; these women, too, should be free to choose.

Having children is seen by most people as a delight. On our overcrowded planet it is also a privilege and a responsibility. If we choose to have children, we must accept the responsibility of their upbringing, and we must not confuse responsibility with punishment. © Times Newspapers Ltd, 1975

The third man steps into the limelight as an author

It cannot be often that an author begins one book and finds himself writing another one altogether, but this has been the case with Philip Mason, whose *Kipling: The Glass, the Shadow and the Fire* was published last month. "I really set out to write a different book," he says, "but I found myself writing about Kipling. I thought originally of calling the book *Lonely Men*, and later on *Men in Masks*, specifically on this subject, taking four examples and writing short biographies. One was to be Kipling, and before I knew where I was I had written 45,000 words. My wife, Mary, said: 'Why don't you turn it into a book on Kipling?' So I did."

Who were the other men in masks? "One was David, whom I knew quite well, who was very different indeed from his public image, and who clearly had this double aspect of his nature. Curzon, who I thought was a fairly obvious one, and Disraeli, because Disraeli was always wearing a mask, not because he had been to public school, but because he knew he was different, and felt he had either to conform, or to be different."

"People are still terribly hostile to Kipling, though even if you like him, when reading him you do come across things that make you feel sick. My nature, Curzon, who I like, is about a dog without wanting to vomit, and I feel like that to some extent with *The Servant of Two Masters*. There is also a sense of the historical consciousness. When, for example, it came to the siege of Barcelona, would the general have had a camp bed or slept on a straw pallet?"

"It took me a long time to find out but there was a bill of lading which included beds, fields, for officers, so that was all right. It really meant that one was spending far too much time getting the buttons right, and it was the least successful book I have ever written. Good reviews, though!"

Then I did a book about the Indian Civil Service, the volumes under the title *The Men*

which was not totally committed, to get people to think. As a writer, his third life, Philip Mason began as a novelist. "My first book was *Call the Next Witness*, which was based on an actual murder case in an Indian village. I tried it first as a short story, sent it to a publisher in London, and he liked it, but said 'If you wrote it as a novel, I would be delighted to publish it'. So he re-wrote it, adding other themes and characters, and took it to England on leave just before the war, and discovered that his publisher had felt that there was no market for a book 'all about Indians'. 'I thought this was so stupid and unimaginative that I put it away in a cupboard. During the war I met Peter Fleming and he read it and said 'It's marvellous, it doesn't want any changes, I'll recommend it to do it'. When I came to London in 1943 with Wavell on a brief visit I rushed into Cape, Jonathan Cape was happy with it, and published it in 1945. It was the Book Society Choice for fiction."

"I then wrote a second book about another Indian experience—life happens in rather dramatic form there. In all there were three novels, but when I came home from India I didn't really feel that this was what I wanted to do—I didn't feel I was really a novelist. So I spent a year doing something I called a historical chronicle, *Colonel of Dragons*—a year's research on a very minute scale into Peterborough's campaign in Spain in 1805. The trouble was that I wouldn't trust myself to writing historical books. I was awed by the vast learning (apparently vast learning) of professional historians. The moment I started writing fiction about the theme of the historical consciousness. When, for example, it came to the siege of Barcelona, would the general have had a camp bed or slept on a straw pallet?"

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Who Ruled India: The Founders and The Guardians—the most successful (things I have done so far—they are still in paperback, both here and in America, 15 years later. So I thought this was probably the sort of line I should be going on with, and as one of the things that came out of it I was asked if I would like to start a study of Race Relations at Chatham House. I meant a certain sacrifice, making one's mind up to write books of a semi-academic sort, but I remained on this course for 17 years. Nine of my books were published under the name Philip Woodruff—the India Office preferred me to publish under a pseudonym, so I used my mother's name. Then I wrote nine books under my own name on various aspects of race relations."

And so an early ambition, to be a writer, was accomplished, though at Oxford he had turned aside from this life. "I loved Oxford, but I felt the first thing I wanted to do was to get off the public and to work in children still being educated. I also felt I wanted a stronger vocation to make writing my whole career—I knew I could always scribble something down, but I was not in any way convinced that I could get it published, and I was not attracted to journalism, and it seemed to me far more interesting then to go to India. It was a tremendously exciting prospect, not only because of Kipling's descriptions of smells and scents. We felt we were leading India into self-government. We had devolved power to Canada, Australia and New Zealand, and now we were trying the same experience with people of different religions and cultures from our own, if I might seem obviously the right thing to say, but I really did believe it. It was not an argument about the principle, but the pace at which this should take place."

For his next book: "I am trying to get on with something else which is completely different—a religious thing about the paradox of impracticable perfection. To take an example—if everybody turned the other cheek, should we be at the mercy of hijackers and assassins? It will come from a series of lectures I am giving at Oxford in the autumn. Then there's the theme I started with, the men in the masks, the concept of the nineteenth-century gentleman in literature "which quite clearly meant something quite different to Dickens and George Meredith", and the growth of the defences that people put up against the terrible theme of equality. He reads his work in his life in the evenings, and walks around the charming garden they have made in the last five years deep in the Hampshire countryside when waiting a word or turning a phrase more elegantly. The four children are grown up now, but the third life of Philip Mason, the writer, like the orchids he grows in his study, seems to be in full flower.

Philippa Toomey

SPORT

Athletics

Three injuries upset the British team

By Neil Allen
Athletic correspondent
The British women's athletics team have suffered three withdrawal injuries which will diminish their chances of qualifying for the final of the European Cup from their semi-final at Sofia next Sunday. Sharon Colyear has suffered a cartilage injury which has caused her to drop out of the 100 metres hurdles, she will be replaced by Lorna Boothie. In the high jump the British record holder Barbara Lawton, has had to stand down for the diminutive if spring-heeled Valerie Harrison. Gladys Taylor is not fit enough to be named in the 400 metres relay squad. The team may also be without the great experience of their team manager, Maresa Hartman, who has had to go into hospital.

In Sofia the British women are the second East German (who, as holders of the cup, qualify automatically for next month's final in Nice), Bulgaria, Netherlands, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia. In addition to the powerful East Germans, the two other best teams from Sofia, Budapest and Leningrad, will be in the final. France (as host nation) will go in Nice on August 16 and 17.

The British men's team for their semi-final at Sofia next Sunday and Saturday and Sunday also face a stiff test against Russia (like East Germany automatic qualifiers since they held the cup in 1974) and Poland, Sweden, Spain and Bulgaria. Yesterday it was announced by the British Amateur Athletic Board that there would be five fresh selections in the team originally announced last month.

These are Frank Clement (1,500 metres), Brendan Foster (5,000 metres), Tony Simmons (10,000 metres), Tony Stanger, instead of the injured John Davies in the 500 metres, and in the triple jump, David Johnson instead of the junior record holder, Aaron Moore, who has failed a fitness test on his leg, Alan Pascoe, who is suffering from a hamstring injury, will decide tomorrow whether he should stand down in favour of Bill Hartley, his regular second string in the 400 metres hurdles.

While the other men's semi-finals are being decided at Leipzig and Turin, the British Board will be hoping to see strong public support at Central Palace, not only for the morale of the home team but also because they hope not to be the red armband losers in a meeting for which they have no commercial sponsorship or government grant.

Fortunately the "pre-meeting" ticket sales are better than for any other meeting this year, no doubt partially because of the success of the Borough Road Colledge and Southern Counties athletics ground by Philips. The advance entries from the other countries for this weekend include such outstanding champions as Valeriy Borzov and Viktor Sanyev (USSR), Anders Gärderud and Kjell Isaksson (Sweden), Bronislaw Malinowski and Wlodek Wodzynski (Poland) and Miran Haro (Spain). Even the Bulgarians, who qualified only by gaining third place in the running of the road at Athens, are strong in the throws.

Horse show

Fletcher and Tauna Dora outjump seven rivals

By Pamela Macgregor-Morris
Graham Fletcher, fresh from winning the Grand Prix in Aachen, retained the Midland Palms Great Yorkshire show jumping championship at his county show at Harrogate yesterday, riding Tauna Dora, after fighting a furious battle with seven opponents.

The most dangerous of all was David Broome, who jumped the first clear round on Bealwaive. Fergus Donohue, who made a rival, with two strings to his bow in Sugar Plum (clear again in 33.2sec) and Lady Hugh Fraser's Missus.

Penwood Forgill had a brick from the wall, there was a fall in the water, Salvador failed to qualify and it was heatwave, clear in 48.2sec, who made the later running until, in the closing stages, Tauna Dora cut the time to 47.4sec.

Mr and Mrs Frank Furness's Seta Pike, the home-bred champion hunter, also retained the title he won here last year. Yesterday his half brother by the name of Seta, finished second in the four-year-old in the novices. Their dam, also home-bred, was champion filly at the National Hunt show and their grand dam, captured by Quasi d'Orsay, was a winner in France, although she was bought in Dublin.

The winning novice, Mr Wilson's Norfolk-bred hunter Lively Lad, a six-year-old, by Star Combine out of a mare by Top

Star, was shown by Mrs P. McMillan, who broke him and his brother for his breeder. He was well up among so many horses, Seta Pike is the only one to have sustained a consistent record in the leading shows. It was of more than passing interest to see John Massarella's heavy-weight, South Lodge, finishing well down the field, the heavy-weight having been beaten at Lincoln two weeks earlier on his second appearance in the ring, by Douglas Bunn's Selsey. The first division was won by Peterborough, where Jack Cirtins and Selsey will defend the champion of all England gold cup, provided that he is of considerable interest.

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How the Basques have remained a political force for Spain to fear

Separatist movements have been common in Spanish history, usually in protest against inept government. At various times Catalonia, Valencia, Murcia, Galicia, and several Andalusian provinces, as well as the Basque provinces, have attempted to secede.

But Basque nationalism has been the most virulent and persistent of these movements. National sentiment is now stronger than ever after 75 years of troubled existence, even though the movement is split among around 20 different groups ranging from moderate conservative to ultra-leftist, and from republican through federalist to outright separatist.

When it first emerged in the 1890s in Bilbao, Basque nationalism was arch-conservative. It stressed the total subordination of the state to the Church, condemned socialism in any form, sanctified private property, promulgated a racist view of non-Basques and demanded the creation of the independent Basque nation of Euzkadi—a nation to be based on unity of race and Roman Catholic religion. It was backed up by enormous wealth generated by

the iron mines and thriving industry of the Basque region. Its most ardent supporters were the prosperous Basque urban middle-classes. The crown's success of the nationalists' efforts came in October, 1936, with the inauguration of the autonomous state of Euzkadi, but this was overturned nine months later by Franco's army.

Basque nationalism was then paralysed into dormancy by severe cultural and political repression. The Franco regime prohibited the use of the Basque language, closed all Basque names from public buildings and streets, made the teaching of the Basque culture and language illegal and imprisoned and/or executed many nationalist leaders.

When the movement re-emerged in 1959, large segments of it had turned to the political left and become militant and anti-clerical. Because of internal disputes it fell into disarray. But it gained strength, especially after the Burgos trials of 1970.

The two most important groups in the nationalist movement are the moderate Basque Nationalist Party, the parent

Although support for ETA's ideology is probably limited, it does enjoy extensive sympathy among Basques of all political persuasions

party of Basque nationalism, and the more recent group, ETA, which is Marxist and advocates armed struggle as the only means of gaining Basque independence. Despite ETA's fame outside the Basque region, the BNP is probably the more politically influential of the two. It is the dominant party in the Paris-based Basque government in exile, has widespread middle-class support, and is Christian Democratic in its politics.

The BNP is against both the militancy and the Marxism of ETA. It argues that, by provoking the police, ETA violence has harmed the Basques more than it has Madrid, and that ETA

Marxism is alien to the grain of traditional Basque culture and can lead only to a new type of dictatorship. ETA in turn accuses the BNP of being bourgeois, romantic, out of touch with the main political currents of the day.

The ETA, the vast majority of whose members are between 17 and 25 years old, is split into two bitterly opposed, internally uncoordinated factions—ETA 6, which is more socialist than nationalist, and ETA 5, the more nationalist than socialist.

About 50-70 per cent of the working class in the Basque region is from the more im-

poverished areas of Spain, attracted by the Basque industrial expansion which demanded vast pools of unskilled labour. The potential economic and cultural competition presented to the Basques by this large influx of Spanish immigrants has been largely responsible for the groundswell of popular nationalist sentiment.

Although support for ETA's political ideology is probably very limited, ETA does enjoy extensive sympathy among Basques of all political persuasions.

Certainly Basque nationalism is the most potent force on the Basque political scene. The Communist Party of Euzkadi, a regional branch of the Spanish Communist Party, has therefore been forced to come to terms with it. The relationship between the nationalists, including Marxist ETA, and the C.P. is one of reciprocal animosity. The nationalists brand the C.P. as being *españolistas* uninterested in the Basque "national problem" and opposed to Basque independence. The C.P. charges the nationalists with being bourgeois anti-socialists.

In order to create a stronger base within the Basque working class, the Communist Party of Euzkadi has recently declared itself semi-independent from the Spanish party. It now argues in favour of an autonomous Basque region. The nationalists see this move as one of tactical opportunism containing no ideological change.

Whether a Basque region separated from the rest of Spain would be economically viable is heatedly debated. Many believe it would not be because of Basque industry's dependence on both Spanish labour and markets.

Regardless of the divisions within the nationalist movement, the Basques are united in their dislike of the Franco regime. The aversion seems mutual. The heavy-handed policies of the Spanish police are resented by the Basques, and in return the Basques are hostile against Madrid and ensuring that Basque nationalism will remain a political force with which any future Spanish government will have to contend.

Marianne Heiberg

Time for the conning to stop

Sloganeering is easier than the exercise of thought. A resolution brought to the general management committee of my constituency party last Friday contained the following rallying call: "The only answer to this crisis is the Labour Government taking bold action against capitalism and for socialism."

"Aux armes, citoyens" was a cry of its time and had its successes. But such empty bombast will achieve little except to keep intelligent folk away from Labour Party meetings. And that has become increasingly the problem of the party. The great range of support it had in the 40s, 50s and early 60s—across the trades and professions and artists—has dwindled away.

For the Labour movement as a stalking horse for their anti-democratic intentions, local parties have been taken over by the double effect of reasonable people giving up in despair as the anti-democrats infiltrate.

The bounding of moderates such as Mr Reg Prentice has been part of a carefully contrived strategy. It is not only in his patch that young activists have moved in on the local party, for other takeovers are under way in other electorates.

Intolerance and smears are part of the witch hunt. The anti-democrats intend to destroy those who stand and speak in defence of the rule of law against the contrivances of Clay Cross and the thuggery of Shrewsbury.

No politician in his senses advocates coalition but the accusation itself will do. And because a comrade will not kiss the ring of Marx, the leftists pass automatic excommunication on him.

Mr Prentice has too much courage for the conformist club the Parliamentary Party has become. It is time some of the real democrats stood up and spelt out their defiance in defence of democracy. For they are in for the same treatment.

Mr Prentice is not a shipwreck. It is too true in the crafty cat's cradle contraption of the checks and balances it deems necessary for peace at any price. The democratic left must stir the winds of opinion and turn the sails of resolution of the leaders who are taking the challenge of the ruling left.

A trumpet or two sounding for the defence of real democracy would sweep the voters back into support of the party. For only a Labour Government can save the country.

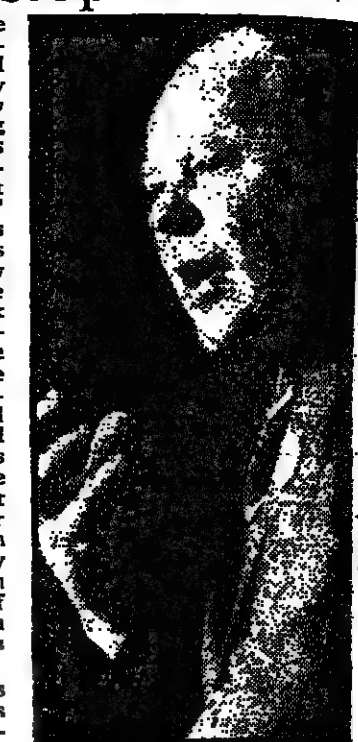
For only a Labour Government can save the country. People to do the job that has to be done. Men and women on the shop floor are reasonable. They are much more astute in their appreciation of a troublemaker and a reader than the militants, eager to see the break up of our society, who by default come to speak in their name.

Such men do not want the Labour Government to get drawn through its difficulties. Success would disprove their creed and destroy their ideological limbo. Yet some leading Labour politicians consort with them, decorate their platforms and dispatch decorous messages of support. Sadly, for each of the truly democratic figures of the party, the more they are seen, the more they are despised.

Mr Jones and Mr Murray and Mr Boyd and many others, there are those who make no secret of their antipathy to parliamentary government and indeed to democratic socialism.

But the vast majority of British men and women of ideology, the future of our country worries them sick. They would willingly do without now for the better prospects of their children. Every Member can cite such spirit in his constituents. The wish to take the challenge on and over with it is there. And collectively a campaign for the routing of the anti-democrats and their damage to our economic health would achieve a better response and truer results than recent election appeals.

Perhaps this pitiful passage in our political history will



Mr Reg Prentice: Automatic excommunication by the leftists for a comrade who will not kiss the ring of Marx

come to be known as the time when the conning had to stop. With all the distress of a heartened believer, it has to be admitted that conning there has been. We won two elections in 1945—and only just—on it electoral understanding that I could operate a social contract which would ensure a series of special just measures in return for restraint from the union.

The country got the measure the Government did not get it. Had the posters been able to peel off the picture as has actually developed, would we have won? And did we deserve to win?

In the social contract, the last best hope of a society I inflationary extremists, we doomed because of a contradiction at the core of left-wing philosophy. The militant argue, as we all do, for the benefits and indeed the necessity of a planned economy. "Control everything," they say. "Control the money." But they hold on, exclude unfettered collective bargaining. Only the moderate and rational I the party extend the logic of a planned, socially just economy to include incomes policy.

The left insists on the mechanics of the market place. And in that market place those I the weaker union, and those without get trampled on. It is too Darwinian a process for the good of the great majority. The laws of the jungle cannot apply in a socialist society.

The signs happily are the slowly, very slowly, the tide I turning. The setting up within the Parliamentary Labour Party of the Manifesto Group, headed by Members endowed with the qualities of responsibility and political judgment, marked the first movement. And now the establishment of the Social Democratic Alliance for Labour Party workers throughout the country shows the swell. It is a caution, a clarion call to "We are long-suffering members of the Labour Party, who are convinced our party is in danger of being driven from its historic course by an intolerant dogmatism which is alien to our socialist traditions and democratic system."

They deserve support. The country and our institutions will not survive their failure. The author is Labour MP for Warley, East.

Perhaps this pitiful passage in our political history will

into practical realities" and everyone applauded. He said afterwards: "I'm a shy person but this was a success. I know something about it. I held my breath and dived in."

Perspective

The local paper put the arrival of the Labour delegation in perspective on Monday. While it gave a full page of coverage to the local road accidents, it devoted only three column inches to the meeting of the parliament and did not mention the Labour intrusion at all. Yesterday, though, it partly made up for this with a photograph.

Another two thirds of the page was given to a happening of far greater interest—a week-long festival of Pate on croute (paté in pastry) at the nearby town of Marckolsheim. The total weight of the paté was 1,200lb and it was judged as excellent by the mayor and "citizens known for their good taste in culinary matters". The entries came in all shapes, some representing ducks, some roses, and some, the reporter noted thoroughly, which had suffered in transit.

The jury tasted in serious silence, weighing paté flavoured with garlic against paté flavoured with shallots or thyme. The rules will be announced next weekend and will also see the election of a Miss Pate en Croute. Now that really is an event of significance.

PHS

Buzz off friend bumblebee to another window box

I bet I know more about bumblebees than you do. In fact, I bet I know more about bumblebees than anybody in the world except Dr D V Alford, who got his PhD for his thesis on them, and knows so much about them he even runs an outfit called the Bumblebee Distribution Maps Scheme, and has just published the definitive study of the jolly little fellows, under the title—the only title he could have chosen, really—*Bumblebees*; it is published by Davis-Poynter, and will set you back no less than twenty-five quid. (They sent me a free copy, merely because I would like to know more about bumblebees. They wouldn't do as much for you, though.) On the other hand, it will tell you absolutely everything there is to be known about bumblebees, as I can swear from personal experience, for I have just read it, which is how I come to be such an expert on the subject all of a sudden.

I can assure you that there is more to the bumblebee, or *bombus*, to give him his Latin name, than meets the eye, or the nose for that matter. (I suppose you'll wish his drowsy hums "must have been a bumblebee.") To start with, there is an almost unbelievable number of species of bumblebee (I say "almost" unbeliev-

able, because Dr Alford is a very plausible fellow, and besides he lists the lot of them, and they go by names of such varied magnificence, such as *bombus lucorum*, who, no doubt, I must introduce you to a selection.

There is *bombus agrorum*, for instance, who is obviously a rustic bumblebee, forever sucking grubs and leaving over gates; there is *bombus lucorum*, who, no doubt, chews gum; *bombus agrorum*, known for producing the most just; *bombus confusus*, a rather daff bumblebee who is always blundering into things; *bombus distinguendus*, who comes of a very old family of bumblebees, and *bombus elegans*, who only goes to the best tailors; *bombus fragrans*, who sprinkles himself with roses, and between you and me is as queer as a root, though for I have just read it, which is how I come to be such an expert on the subject all of a sudden.

There is *bombus lucorum*, who is obviously a rustic bumblebee, forever sucking grubs and leaving over gates; there is *bombus lucorum*, who, no doubt, chews gum; *bombus agrorum*, known for producing the most just; *bombus confusus*, a rather daff bumblebee who is always blundering into things; *bombus distinguendus*, who comes of a very old family of bumblebees, and *bombus elegans*, who only goes to the best tailors; *bombus fragrans*, who sprinkles himself with roses, and between you and me is as queer as a root, though for I have just read it, which is how I come to be such an expert on the subject all of a sudden.



teller of tall bumblebee tales; *bombus lucorum*, said to have nuclear mandibles; *bombus ruderals*, who sticks his tongue out at lady bumblebees; *bombus sensilis*, poor old thing; *bombus subterraneus*, who has read more Karl Marx than is good for him; and *bombus lucorum*, or so she says. Many a lesson can be learnt by the human race from its furry friend *bombus*; for instance, Dr Alford reveals that *bombus lucorum*, who is obviously a rustic bumblebee, forever sucking grubs and leaving over gates; there is *bombus lucorum*, who, no doubt, chews gum; *bombus agrorum*, known for producing the most just; *bombus confusus*, a rather daff bumblebee who is always blundering into things; *bombus distinguendus*, who comes of a very old family of bumblebees, and *bombus elegans*, who only goes to the best tailors; *bombus fragrans*, who sprinkles himself with roses, and between you and me is as queer as a root, though for I have just read it, which is how I come to be such an expert on the subject all of a sudden.

unable to accept, and that the had child of a bumblebee is "convex, dull and hairy all over". This is a wicked libel. (A much worse error is Dr Alford's claim that "Wagner assumed that bumblebees of the various species entered hibernation at about the same time of year, in response to the onset of autumn weather". Wagner made no such assumption—on the contrary, he used to insist that no two bumblebees entered hibernation, or even a pub, at the same time if they could help it; indeed, the first draft of *Götterdämmerung* contains a long and moving statement by Alberich of this very point.)

Badgers eat bumblebees—some do, anyway—which is the only thing I know about badgers that I don't like; skunks, less surprisingly, are also numbered among their enemies, and "in Ireland, brown trout have been reported to take bumblebees which inadvertently land on the water"—though that last statement suggests that Dr Alford can't tell when he is having his leg pulled. Bumblebees are deaf, it seems.

Some species "possess rather pugnacious workers" who are no doubt enrolled into the *Bumblebee Legion of Honour*. Employees, though the habit of flying out from the nest, each bee pausing at intervals to hover momentarily at a series of predetermined

visiting places" rather suggests that if so they have missed their vocation, and ought to be driving the No. 11 bus. I have to confess—you will see how little I knew of the subject on which I am now such an authority before I read Dr Alford's monograph—that I used to be of the opinion that the difference between a bumblebee and honey-bee was that bumblebees have no stings. But they do; the bumblebee's sting, however, is not equipped with the barb that the honey-bee's has. This means, of course, that a bumblebee, unlike its better organized cousin, can wound its enemy, withdraw its sting, and live to strike again—a fact which has caused me to revise my intention of inviting any passing bumblebee to visit my window-boxes; *bombus lucorum*, for instance (he presumably has a glittering eye), "shows a particularly strong preference for areas inhabited by man", and I would have loved to see him browsing among the undergrowth if it had not been for the feeling that he might slip into the room, sting me, and slip out again. Incidentally, one of the bumblebee's insect enemies is a species of wasp called *Philanthus*, which is a pity, because that all a bumblebee has to do is to knock the square off its hypotenuse.

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The other diaries that expose the workings of the Cabinet

"Great row in Cabinet today", begins the diary's account of one of the decisive meetings in the history of the Labour Party. And then follows a blow by blow account of the intrigues and events that culminated in the resignation of Mr Aneurin Bevan in April 1951 and the beginning of an ideological schism within the movement whose effects are still being felt by the party today.

The account is remarkable for two quite different reasons. It is not only an exceptional example of eye-witness reporting from inside the Cabinet room. It is also freely available for inspection at the library of the London School of Economics.

For this is not Mr Richard Crossman's but Mr Hugh Dalton's diary. And although the events it describes fall well within the 30-year embargo on publication which applies to official documents and although it is equally in breach of collective Cabinet confidentiality, no one has tried to arrest its suppression. Mr Dalton himself

used his diaries as the basis of his own three-volume autobiography; more recently, Mr Michael Foot drew on them in his biography of Mr Aneurin Bevan published in 1973.

No one ever accused Mr Dalton of being over-discreet. Characteristically, he had to resign as Chancellor of the Exchequer in Mr Aneurin Bevan's Government because he talked too freely to a journalist before delivering his Budget in the House of Commons; equally characteristically, he bounced back into the Cabinet soon afterwards, and was therefore an enthusiastic participant in the events of March and April, 1951.

His account of the series of Cabinet meetings and backstage conversations which culminated in Mr Bevan's resignation—the decision of Mr Hugh Gaiskell, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, to impose charges on false teeth and spectacles—thus provides a classic picture of political infighting.

The diaries are revealing in

another sense. The clash between Mr Gaiskell and Mr Bevan has become an archetypal Labour myth, symbolising the on-going clash between the right and the left wings of the party. As expounded by Mr Michael Foot in his biography, for example, the myth is that Mr Gaiskell was the unyielding voice of the Treasury while Mr Bevan was ideologically defending the welfare state (with the implication, of course, that only the left can be relied upon to fight for the principles of the true faith in times of economic crisis). In fact, the Dalton diaries suggest a rather different interpretation of what actually happened.

Shortly before the critical Cabinet meeting of March 20, 1951, which first considered the proposals for charges, Mr Dalton had a long conversation with Mr Bevan in which he explained the likely line-up of Ministers: "Hugh Gaiskell said he expected much opposition from Nye, with support from Harold Wilson. I asked, why Harold Wilson? Hugh Gaiskell said he

was always intriguing with Nye and was hoping to get HG's job if he had to resign." But they also talked about the background to the proposals themselves. Gaiskell said that "... he has been fighting off-stage for improved pensions, plus a ceiling to health services (expenditure), with some charges for teeth and glasses, but dropping prescriptions."

This remark is interesting for a number of reasons. It shows that Mr Gaiskell's proposals were a compromise: he had already dropped the idea of prescription charges—presumably, although the diaries do not make this clear, to mollify Mr Bevan (which is perhaps why in a subsequent conversation Mr Gaiskell told Mr Dalton: "... we could not always be blackmailed and give way. Nye would do to our party what Lloyd George had done to the Liberals"). Equally, it underlines the fact that Mr Gaiskell was not imposing charges simply to pay for an inflated and un-

realistic military budget (the Bevanite version).

In his view, containing expenditure on health was a way of creating opportunities for interest not just because they of interest but because they provide a means of social spending; at a Cabinet meeting on April 9, Mr Gaiskell told his colleagues "after a long wrangle with Nye... and a flood of arguments and appeals" that "if he had £23 million to spare, he wouldn't use it on anything but health and spectacles free. He would rather spend it on improved family allowances, or on more old age pensions or on smaller income tax increases."

It was at this Cabinet, presided over by Mr Herbert Morrison, that the crucial decision was taken: "Finally the views are collected and all stand by the Chancellor except Nye and Harold Wilson ('Nye and the dog' I called them outside) and Tomkinson, who has lost his courage and wants to postpone the decision. Some afterwards Mr Bevan—described by Mr Attlee to Mr Dalton as a "green-eyed mon-

ster", jealous of Mr Gaiskell—resigned, followed by Mr Wilson.

All this would seem to suggest that the diaries of participants at Cabinet meetings are of interest not just because they provide a means of social spending; at a Cabinet meeting on April 9, Mr Gaiskell told his colleagues "after a long wrangle with Nye... and a flood of arguments and appeals" that "if he had £23 million to spare, he wouldn't use it on anything but health and spectacles free. He would rather spend it on improved family allowances, or on more old age pensions or on smaller income tax increases."

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ster", jealous of Mr Gaiskell—resigned, followed by Mr Wilson.

Rudolf Klein

The author is a Senior Fellow at the Centre for Studies in Social Policy.

The Times Diary

Getting there was no fun at all

present day city, the delegates got an allowance of 60 units of account (3,000 Belgian francs) a day, they drew this in local French currency, it amounts to some £25 a day, though if they were to wait until they returned to London they would get only £25.

Nothing is simple about community finance as a Euro-crate explained to me on the plane over. "Community accounting is done in European units of account which of course are pre-Smithsonian dollars," he said. Of course, "There are pegged at 2.4 to the £ and 50 to the Belgian franc, regardless of fluctuation in currency values. Now that the £ is worth less, the delegates are much better off driving their allowance in local currency."

But of this they pay their hotel and subsistence, and it is just about adequate. Prices here are less exorbitant than some feared, despite the poor exchange rate. I had a decent dinner for £2, and another £2 for a bottle of the lovely local white wine, which is spread than I could get in London for the price.

The Labour group are staying at the newly-opened Holiday Inn, which is like Holiday Inns everywhere. Hardly any of them are there on the first night

except their leader Michael Stewart, who, deserted by his troops, dined frugally, alone with a book, on a cheeseburger and a half bottle of Perrier water.

The rest were more adventurous. "I can eat at a Holiday Inn in Birmingham," said Betty Boothroyd, representing West Bromwich West. In small groups, they reported back at the hotel bar around midnight, with excited tales of gastronomic triumphs at little bourgeois bistros which served the finest onion tart this side of anywhere.

Chaos

Miss Boothroyd is the group's whip, which means she is responsible for rushing them all back to Westminster if their votes are needed in a division. This is none too easy, since Strasbourg is ill served by direct transport to London. "I keep the times of all the planes in my handbag," she told me.

But what of the actual work of the parliament? Initially the new members were unimpressed. "It's chaos," Willie Hamilton. "I'm totally bewildered." He and the others quickly realized that the conduct of business in many different languages ruled out the thrust of the debate, debating techniques of the House of Commons, and that it was more like working in committee. They also found themselves inadequately briefed on the topics at issue.

It was a pity that the first session on Monday should have started with tedious procedural debate about when they should discuss a report on wine. The rapporteur, an Italian socialist, complained that, among other things, "the Commission has almost entirely overlooked the possibilities of boosting wine consumption" though delegates of all nationalities seem to be helping in that respect during their stay here.

The British Labour group are deeply exercised over whether they are free agents when it comes to voting, or whether they are mandated by the Parliamentary Labour Party. As members of the socialist group here they will be expected to vote in a block as often as possible, though because of their newness, they are being given dispensation to vote as they fancy takes them in the important vote on European unity.

Tom Ellis, an ex-minister from Wrexham, became the first British Labour member to speak here yesterday afternoon, when he talked about the coal industry. He spoke in the "translation of sociological

intangibles" into practical realities" and everyone applauded. He said afterwards: "I'm a shy person but this was a success. I know something about it. I held my breath and dived in."

Perspective

The local paper put the arrival of the Labour delegation in perspective on Monday. While it gave a full page of coverage to the local road accidents, it devoted only three column inches to the meeting of the parliament and did not mention the Labour intrusion at all. Yesterday, though, it partly made up for this with a photograph.

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THE REAL CHOICE FOR THE MINERS

For the moment, it seems that the more extreme elements within the National Union of Mineworkers have failed to carry the day. The success of the Prime Minister and Mr. Gormley in toning down the immediate demand for a £100 a week wage for face-workers should not, however, hide the fact that the miners are certain to press for a rate of wage increase in excess of anything that could be held to be compatible with what emerges as the new "norm" under whatever form of revised social contract is announced on Friday. The previous Government found that its own incomes policy and indeed its total political authority was destroyed in a confrontation with the miners. If the next phase of this Government's incomes policy is to have any effect, it is clearly critical that it should include a coherent strategy for containing the "special case", which the miners will almost certainly present.

The miners are in a special position, whether one likes the fact or not, because they have the power to bring a modern industrial society to a standstill, combined with the organization and political determination to use it to the full in the process of wage negotiations. After the lessons of the recent past, any government which failed to take this into account in its calculations would be foolish. The essential requirement is that the level of settlement for the miners over the next several wage settlements should not become the norm for others, particularly in the rest of the public sector. The tragedy of the last round was that levels of settlement for the miners, on the grounds that theirs was a special case, became the bench-

mark for settlements in the rest of the public sector, where neither the economic case nor the reality of industrial bargaining power was the same.

The Government should, therefore, make it clear that the totality of its present incomes policy does not depend on what happens to the miners. Rather, it should make it clear to the union and the National Coal Board that the industry as a whole has its own future in its own hands. If the union uses its undoubted industrial power to extract economic increases from the coal board, corresponding changes should immediately be made in the medium and long-term plans for the position of the coal industry in the country's fuel economy. The miners should be faced with the fact that their wages determine the coal price, and if the price is pushed too high less coal will be used and less investment in coal burning equipment will be made.

So far as the ordinary commercial and private markets for coal are concerned, such a policy could be best fulfilled by passing on the wage increases at once in the form of full price increases. This would have, and be seen to have, the effect of contracting the market for coal in relation to other fuels.

The major market for coal, however, lies with electricity generation. Here, there is relatively little that can be done in the short term, because of the cost and time required to bring in non-coal-burning power stations, or to convert existing power stations away from coal. Because of the present industrial recession and the effects of past price rises in the cost of electricity, however, the Central Electricity Generating Board is in the position of having an

historically large margin of generating capacity. This gives it an unusual ability to shift the balance of its power generation away from coal burning, by phasing out the older, thermally less efficient power stations more rapidly than had been intended.

The generating industry is still predominantly dependent on coal. Some two-thirds of the electricity produced comes from coal-fired stations. If in fact miners' pay increases make coal more expensive than oil the Government's fuel policy should reciprocate by shifting the balance of electricity generation away from coal burning, towards other sources of energy as fast as is physically and financially possible. The investment policy of the electricity supply industry should also be based on the realistic assumption that coal will be an expensive fuel. In order to avoid guessing whether the miners or the shafts will be tougher, any further coal-fired stations should be dual-firing and capable of conversion to oil.

Once this basic shift in the country's energy and electricity policy is established, the miners will not be involved year after year in a confrontation with the government of the day. They will be faced with deciding for themselves on the future of their own industry. If they wish rapidly to press for rates of pay equivalent to the £100 a week target at today's prices, they will have to face the fact that the price advantage of coal over oil will have gone. On this basis, coal could become a high priced, high wage industry, which would contract in importance in employment and in industrial power. The choice would then lie with the NUM itself.

The Crossman Diaries

From Professor J. E. S. Hayward
Sir, The unrepentant duality of Richard Crossman's life, his simultaneous commitment to politics as an academic discipline and as a public activity, exposed him to snipers from both members of the political class and from some academics. The Diaries, of which we have had a foretaste, thanks to the commendable courage of *The Sunday Times*, embody both sides of Crossman. On the strength of what we have been permitted to read so far, it is reasonable to assume that these Diaries will contribute more to the understanding of contemporary British politics and administration than a shelf of apologetics by retired or active senior officials or a painstaking treatise by academic researchers.

The relatively modest contribution that the academic study of politics has hitherto made towards an improvement in the practical working of British government, can be partly attributed to the secretiveness of the high echelons of senior officials and politicians who attempt to govern the country. This secretiveness seems to be based upon a combination of contempt for the uninformed and a fear of the informed criticism that might result from greater access to information about how political and administrative decisions are actually taken. The persistence of such an arm's length relationship will mean that the politician will continue to have little to offer the politician or the civil servant in their hour of need.

Because Crossman had a belief in the potentialities of the academic study of politics, and the self-confidence not to fear the effects of more openness in government, he left these Diaries from which both practitioners and observers of the political art would have much to learn. Thanks to Crossman, there will no longer be strictly true to say that "Those who know won't tell and those who tell don't know". The inability to profit from past mistakes has been a salient failing of British governments in recent years, so it is all the more important that the record left by a privileged participant-observer should be available and carefully studied with a view to avoiding a repetition of past mistakes, both of academic interpretation and, more importantly, of practical action.

When we cease to be fobbed off with threadbare official fictions that mock the intelligence both of those who profit and those who countenance them, the foundations will have been laid of a fruitful relationship between the insiders and those who study politics from the outside. That is where the public interest lies. Yours faithfully,
JACK HAYWARD, Chairman, Political Studies Association of the United Kingdom, Department of Politics, The University, Hull.

Ordination of women

From Mr Arthur Cuff
Sir, Rather to my surprise I see that in the argument in favour of the ordination of women to the priesthood, at the recent synod of the Anglican church, reference was made to psychological considerations.

What evidence or justification is there for assuming that the human psyche is in any fundamental way different now from what it was in Our Lord's time—or Adam's for that matter?

I should have thought that really deep and informed consideration of the psychological factors would have swayed the debate heavily against the ordination of women to the priesthood rather than otherwise—not because women are intellectually inferior to men, but simply because, whatever else they may manage to achieve they can never become fathers.

Yours faithfully,
ARTHUR W. CUFF, Juniper, 14 Grove Park, Wansstead, E11.

From Mr Graham Neville
Sir, It is not strange that those who argue against the ordination of women seem unaware of the strong arguments against the ordination of men? The sexual stereotypes imposed by our society allocate to the male most of those characteristics which militate against a Christ-like mind.

Ambition, aggression, authoritarianism, even emotional immaturity, are expected of the twentieth-century, western, urbanized male. If some men in the ministry of the Church embody the characteristics of the Servant, that is largely in defiance of their expected sexual role.

It is questionable whether there are innate sex-linked characteristics which qualify or disqualify one whole sex from the priesthood. It is on the other hand, certain that there are socially imposed sexual roles. In our society it is obvious which sex is handicapped in the imitation of Christ by its imposed role: the male sex.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM NEVILLE, Religious Studies Department, Eastbourne College of Education, Darley Road, Eastbourne.

The American Revolution

From Sir Reader Bullard
Sir, Mr Heren's entertaining article on Benedict Arnold (July 4) sent me back to that invaluable book *The Historian's Contribution to Anglo-American Misunderstanding* (R. A. Billington and others, 1966).

It deals with impartiality and wide knowledge with both parties to the dispute and the British reader who is equally satisfied at the modern version of the history of the American Revolution may receive a smart rap for the injustice he does to the Americans by his ignorance of events of the first importance such as the war of 1812.

Yours faithfully,
R. W. BULLARD, 46 Planchet Road, Oxford.

A fair formula for wage limits

From Professor Sidney Pollard
Sir, There appears to be a widespread reluctance to impose a definite wage limitation in the next round, be it of 10 per cent, £6 or any other figure applied across the board. One main reason for this is that it is grossly unfair to those groups which were just about to receive their increases, as against those who just slipped by before the axe fell. It leaves them with a strong sense of grievance. If they are strong enough, they will insist on the treatment of the weak, the standstill; if not, they will wait until the standstill phase is over to get their due back payment, and it is for that reason that past standstills have made no difference to the long-term wage curve.

Most of these difficulties would be removed if the limitation referred, not to the situation immediately before it, but to a much longer period, say to the past three or five years. Each group of wage and salary earners would be allowed to choose, within that period, the limit of their wage rise (measured against the official cost of living index) was the most favourable to itself, and obtain an increase allowing it to get back to that standard, but not beyond, measured against the current cost of living. Such a policy would be possible in the past when a standstill meant a total freeze. Now, with perhaps a 10 per cent rise in total money incomes to play with, the chances are that a measure of this kind would not exceed that increase in total, but would distribute it very differently.

There are at least three major advantages over the flat rate increase. It would remove the sense of grievance of those just caught by the axe and, indeed, would by definition satisfy all current claims based on the cost of living. Secondly, it would give most of those who have fallen behind, and least to those who have been ahead. Thirdly, it would create a more acceptable reference point for the future, when real wages overall may be allowed to rise or may have to be cut by a fraction: it would make it easier to translate further price rises into cost of living bonuses; and it would make it clearer, if in future one or other group demanded more than its share, ie, a change in its relative position, that this could be done only at the expense of all other income earners.

Needless to say, the same principle could with some benefit be applied to prices, penalizing those who have been greediest, and benefiting those who have been able to make real cost reductions, though some differences between industries will have to be allowed for. Yours respectfully,
S. POLLARD, Head, Department of Economic and Social History, University of Sheffield, July 7.

Incomes policy

From Mr R. F. Farmer
Sir, The Chancellor has made it clear that one way or another future rises in wages are to be no more than ten per cent and that the only question open to discussion is whether this limit is to be ten per cent of individual earnings or a fixed sum relative to average earnings.

The arguments in favour of the flat rate are obvious and attractive. If it produces any economic or moral benefit in this crisis then it is in the right. The "fat cats" in our society should be asked to substitute milk for some of the cream they are accustomed to drink. It is equally right that those whose staple diet is already skimmed milk should not be asked to eke it out with water.

Unfortunately the reality is not quite so simple. The better paid can eat plainer and cheaper food, use less alcohol and tobacco, spend their holidays at home instead of at an hotel and put off buying a new suit or an electronic gadget. But no exercise of personal austerity can reduce the cost of their housing or—save to a strictly limited extent—of daily travel to their jobs or of domestic fuel consumption. And it is generally true that the higher a man's earnings the higher will be his irreducible commitments on these three items.

The obvious solution would be to freeze the relevant prices. But if that is not possible a compromise could be made. Housing, travel, heat and light are weighted in the Retail Prices Index so as to account for a little over thirty per cent of the total. The Chancellor's ten per cent limit might therefore be made up of three per cent of individual earnings

North London Polytechnic

From the Principal of Sidney Webb College
Sir, I write to repudiate the implication in Lord Annan's letter (July 3) that, with the exception of the director of polytechnics, those of us in positions of responsibility in institutions of higher education maintained by local authorities are "hired hacks" of the authority. We enjoy precisely the same rights of academic freedom as Lord Annan claims for Mr Miller.

No one can do other than deplore the continuing state of confrontation at North London Polytechnic but equally there have been similar situations in universities. I cannot think that the use of emotive language and the subsequent attempt in your leader to identify a scapegoat do anything more than contribute to the irrationality which has so constantly tended to dominate this debate.

Yours faithfully,
R. BERSFORD, Principal, Sidney Webb College, 9-12 Barrett Street, W1, July 4.

From Mr Tony Jones
Sir, As a student at University College London, I feel that several points are raised by Lord Annan's letter (July 3) and your editorial of the same day which should not go uncontested.

The letter and editorial appeared

plus a fixed sum equivalent to seven per cent of the average.

The maintenance of differentials may be a luxury we must forgo for the time being but the Chancellor will be wise to avoid policies which may cause those from whom a substantial contribution to our recovery will be demanded to ask themselves if it is worth the bother.

Yours faithfully,
R. F. FARMER, General Secretary, Institute of Journalists, 2 and 4 Tudor Street, EC4.

Retail prices

From Professor V. P. Underwood
Sir, Surely the biggest single factor in inflation is lack of real control over the retail price of staple foods: inflated wage demands by powerful minorities no doubt start with legitimate complaints from their shopping wives. The disparity between the prices of the same product in different stores on the same day is shocking.

Last Friday I was charged 40p per pound for Dutch Edam cheese at a Godee Street multiple grocery (price not displayed, so that I was forced to inquire). The price was 32p at one Surbiton store (price displayed) and 36p at another (price not displayed). Three weeks ago it was already 40p per pound at an East Horsley village branch store (price not displayed). The same pattern of disparity existed at the same shop under Mr Heath's administration and therefore cannot be due to lucky buying and storing of cheese by the store with the consistently low price.

It rather gives rise to suspicion of profiteering by stores who can rely on the affluent (secure in wage rises that outstrip prices) not bothering to "shop around", or have no competitors near by. Only pensioners and the new poor (eg, university teachers) deliberately downgraded by the present Government's unequal egalitarianism, are obliged to waste dwindling time and energy on making these odious comparisons, which could easily be confirmed by your reporters.

A little publicity might be more effective than any consumer's complaint to whatever government agency claims to be watching retail prices. The disparities apply to many food products. Yours faithfully,
V. P. UNDERWOOD, University College London, Gower Street, WCI, July 4.

Mr Gormley's doublethink

From Mr Bryan Thwaites
Sir, July 7's evening papers report Mr J. Gormley as saying: "It is necessary to stop and reflect as to whether we should use that strength to further our own ends or whether we should use it wisely to create a better position for all workers." Having said these things, Mr Gormley is widely described as a moderate.

A few weeks ago, he said as follows: "The miners are going to remain at the top of the tree and if that hurts somebody I am sorry but that is the way I look at life." In my letter which you kindly published on May 21, 1975, I described that as the authentic voice of tyranny.

These two remarks of the NUM President are incompatible. There are, therefore, two possibilities. First, neither remark may represent what he means. Second, one may do so and the other does not. In either case, he is using a standard technique by which tyrants seek to retain their power.

Should Mr Gormley disagree with my analysis, I would like to invite him, possibly through the courtesy of your columns, to reconcile the two remarks. Yours faithfully,
BRYAN THWAITES, Milnthorpe, Winchester, July 7.

MPs' salaries

From Mr Anthony Taylor
Sir, Well said Mr Joelson (July 4). Why should MPs, whose decisions are responsible for our domestic inflation, exempt themselves from its consequences? Their wits might be sharpened if they knew that relief of their personal difficulties lay only in stabilizing the currency. Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY TAYLOR, 22 The Crescent, Alexandra Park, Nottingham, July 4.

Paintings in St Paul's

From the Curator of the Watts Gallery
Sir, In the 1890s Watts presented a version of his "Sir John Lubbock" in Eton College. This was hung in the School Chapel, where it remained until about twenty years ago when the restoration of the roof of the building made it necessary to take it temporarily off the wall. On learning that it was not to be reinstated, I seized the opportunity to acquire it on loan for the Watts Gallery at Compton. In 1968, however, the Provost and Fellows of Eton decided that they would like to have it back, and I was delighted to be reinstated.

It is too much to hope that in the not very remote future the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's may also have second, or better, thoughts? Yours faithfully,
WILFRID BLUNT, Curator, The Watts Gallery, Compton, Guildford, Surrey.

Left-handed

From Mr J. D. Tunnichie
Sir, The answer to General Cowley's question (July 7) is that right-handed golf clubs, unlike tennis rackets and cricket bats, cannot be used left-handed, and new golf clubs are expensive. A beginner commonly starts with hand-me-downs or second-hand clubs, and the scarcity of left-handed clubs is therefore self-perpetuating.

It is said that the great Ben Hogan was naturally left-handed but began to play golf right-handed when he was a young caddy for want of left-handed clubs. It is also said by some that golf is really a left-handed game played back-handedly and that this accounts partly for Hogan's phenomenal success.

Yours faithfully,
J. D. TUNNICLIFFE, 11 Radcliffe Court, Rose Crescent, Cambridge.

THE RUINS OF THE ARGENTINE REGIME

When President Juan Perón died a year ago the contradictions in the movement which supported him, and had brought him back to power in 1973 after eighteen years' exile, were already glaringly apparent to the outside world. During his first period in power, from 1943 to 1955, General Perón practised an authoritarian populism whose ideological affinities, if any, were with the social philosophy of José Antonio Primo de Rivera, or of Ernst Röhm, or of Mussolini in the early twenties, rather than with the international left. But he was rather more successful than those leaders in materially improving the lot of the working class and in convincing that class that his was their genuine champion. So when he was driven from office by the army in 1955, although the international left shed few tears for him, and although he found Madrid the most congenial capital in which to take refuge, he left behind him in Argentina a powerful trade union movement which cherished his memory and hoped for his return.

The next eighteen years saw a succession of governments, some civilian and some military, all of a fairly conservative colouring and none of them able either to crush the labour movement or to win its confidence. In such a situation it was inevitable that the most effective opposition should come from the left, and hardly surprising that many of the opposition groups, both violent and non-violent, should seek to extend their influence by invoking the name of Perón. Perón responded to this by dropping hints that he had moved to the left himself, and working

through agents from his place of exile he managed to weld together a Peronist front which embraced virtually every shade of opinion from Trotskyism to fascism, but whose dominant slogans, so long as it was in opposition, were those of the nationalist anti-gringo left. When the front triumphed in the spring of 1973 and its candidate Dr Hector Cámpora became president, Argentina appeared to be hurtling leftward in the wake of Allende's Chile.

That lasted for three months, until General Perón, now permitted to return, had successfully installed himself in the seat which Dr Cámpora had kept warm for him. He then quickly began to stop the rot, showing his true colours by such diverse measures as banning the free sale of contraceptives, restoring order in universities, and pursuing a cautiously Keynesian economic policy. The Peronist left soon began to show its disillusionment, but the front more or less held together until its leader died. Such acts of left-wing terrorism as occurred were apparently the work of the non-Peronist People's Revolutionary Army (ERP).

There was never much chance that this balancing act could be maintained for long once the authority of the *lider himself* was removed. His third wife and successor commanded little respect in her own right, and the chief adviser she inherited from her husband, Señor José López Rega, was actively detested by almost all sections of the public and especially by the left. Soon after her accession the Peronist guerrilla movement, the Monto-

neros, announced that it was going back underground. There followed a swift and ugly escalation of political murders carried out not only by the left but also, with increasing frequency, by a right-wing counter-terror group, the "Three As", with which the name of Señor López Rega was linked frequently in private and lately also by a respected newspaper, *La Opinión*, in public.

Meanwhile the economic situation got rapidly out of hand. Inflation, which had been kept down to 15 per cent in the twelve months of Juan Perón's presidency, has been over a hundred per cent in the first twelve months of his wife's. Clearly a drastic economic package was needed, and it was certainly provided last month when the new economics minister, Señor Rodrigo, devalued the peso by fifty per cent and trebled the price of petrol, while the President announced her intention of holding wage increases to 45 per cent, if necessary by decree. But unfortunately nothing had been done to secure the political base from which such a package would have to be launched if it were to have any chance of success. The effect was simply to arouse such a wave of working-class anger that even the tame and corrupt Peronist leadership of the trade unions was forced into a head-on clash with the Government.

It appears that the Government has now lost that clash, and that even if President Isabel Perón has so far resisted the demand that Señor López Rega be dismissed from her private secretariat as well as from the cabinet, her economic policy lies in ruins and her political credibility is damaged probably beyond repair.

Management of hospitals

From Brigadier Sir Geoffrey Hardy-Roberts
Sir, As a layman who has played a part in the National Health Service since it began in 1948, I am inclined to agree with the criticism of Professor Margaret Turner-Warwick's excellent article in your issue of June 25, "The Problem of Understanding the Misunderstood".

I believe that one of the regrettable features of the recent reorganisation of the NHS is that laymen are no longer involved in the management of hospitals. Nor the cast of the merits of the previous arrangements was that it compelled doctors and hospital administrators to explain their problems and communications in language that was intelligible to everyone: a healthy exercise which prevented in amount of misunderstanding.

Dissenting groups of doctors can, believe, reach agreement more easily if they meet to discuss their differences under the chairmanship of a layman who is not ashamed to assist that the facts are presented to him in simple terms. Unfortunately, since the intervention of Sir Keith Joseph's management consultants, laymen have been in short supply.

I think, too, that the complaints from made by patients, that their doctors never tell them anything; and comments by doctors, that patients are deplorably inarticulate, are the result of failure on the part of both to use expressions that each can understand.

Increased specialization and advances in therapeutic and diagnostic techniques are among the reasons for general hospitals being much bigger than they were formerly. If good discipline, effective cooperation between all sections of the staff, and esprit de corps are to prevail in these greatly enlarged institutions, the quality of leadership and management must be able of overcoming the problems of staff relations that are inherent in big organizations.

County hall at Guildford

From Mr C. J. K. Boyce and Mr David Bastin
Sir, Lord Onslow in his letter of June 25 (County Hall at Guildford) deplores what he terms the unfairness to those who successfully petition against private Parliamentary Bills of not being able to claim their costs. He cites the rejection of the recent Stoke Newington Bill as an example.

The letter contains a number of inaccuracies, notably his assertion that the borough council wished to erect a new county hall on public open space—the land is not legally public open space and the borough council merely wished to have removed a statutory obstacle to the grant of a lease which, if planning permission had been granted following a public inquiry, would have enabled the county council to erect their own county hall.

One of the implications of Lord Onslow's letter is that the promoters of the Bill, in going to Parliament before seeking planning permission, pursued a course of action which would ensure that, even if they lost, they would not

Amazing value

From Mr A. R. Dobell
Sir, With reference to Mrs Joy McQuade's letter (July 5) concerning the value for an evening at the Old Vic.

Last weekend I was down in London and visited the Maze at Hampton Court—entry fee 2p. If one wished, one could presumably spend all day in there. You cannot have much better value than that.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY R. DOBELL, Pear Tree Farm, Peover Heath, Keston, Cheshire, July 5.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

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North Sea gas from Frigg field faces further two-year setback

Roger Vielvoye, a senior correspondent, says the deadline for raising gas drilling platform for Frigg field from the bottom of the North Sea, market experts at the British Gas Corporation have once again back the likely arrival date of gas from the field—this time until early 1978, two years behind schedule.

Officially British Gas and French companies developing the field are still working a revised timetable of getting Frigg gas ashore in mid-1977. But the corporation's marketing department takes a pessimistic view of the situation on the Frigg field and quotes 1978 as a realistic date for selling supplies from this source.

Frigg problems began when the first drilling platform for the field was actually sunk some three kilometres short of its correct drilling position. Two unsuccessful attempts have been made to raise the 5,500 tonnes of jacket about 25 metres so it can continue its journey to the gasfield.

French engineers from the Equatorial group and others from the J. Ray-Dermott rig building group are working against the deadline to get a new steel jacket welded on to the structure so that it has enough buoyancy to clear the bottom of the ocean.

If they fail to meet the deadline, the complex and expensive contingency plan will be put into action. This involves the conversion of a concrete manifold structure built for installation as a midway booster station on the 350 miles of parallel 32in pipelines that will move gas to a reception terminal at St Fergus, Aberdeenshire.

The platform, built by the Howard Doris group in northern Norway has already been converted to accommodate gas well drilling equipment. Work has also started in Sweden on a replacement concrete booster platform. The cost of this contingency plan already runs into tens of millions of pounds.

Should the steel platform be successfully salvaged the booster unit can revert to its original role within a couple of weeks leaving Elf to decide whether to cancel the Swedish construction work and pay sizeable penalties or complete the unit and try to sell it on the open market.

Frigg is one of the biggest gasfields found in the North Sea and straddles the median line between British and Norwegian waters. British Gas has contracted to buy the entire 1,400 million cubic feet of gas that will be available daily.

The sinking happened during the development of the first stage which covers exploiting gas in the United Kingdom part of the reservoir. Supplies from the Norwegian sector should now be available in 1979.

Newman will ask bank to appraise deals

By John Whitmore

Newman Industries, the Bristol-based engineering group, is to call in a merchant bank to make an independent appraisal of its proposed deals relating to Thomas Poole & Gladstone China.

This decision was announced at yesterday's extraordinary general meeting in Bristol, after Monday's representations from institutional shareholders and an overwhelming vote by the Newman shareholders present at yesterday's meeting to defer a vote on the relevant resolutions for a further three weeks.

Mr Alan Bartlett, Newman's chairman, said that he was putting the motion for an adjournment in the interests of the company and to prevent further damage to its reputation. In fact, he added, sufficient proxies had been received in favour of the resolution to ensure that they were carried—and not just marginally.

Under the resolutions, Newman was seeking shareholder approval of two deals. The first was the acquisition of a package of investments and liabilities from TPG—which owns about a quarter of the Newman equity—for £325,000. The second deal concerns a purchase by Newman of a 19.8 per cent stake in TPG from Strongpoint, a private company controlled by Mr Bartlett and Mr J. A. Loughton, a vice-chairman of Newman.

Over recent days Mr Angus Murray, a non-executive director of Newman, has come out openly against the proposals.

Mr Bartlett opened yesterday's meeting—attended by more than 50 people—by saying that it was tragic that recent events had precipitated a situation that could only be to the detriment of the company's shareholders.

Mr Bartlett then spoke for almost an hour, laying before shareholders what he and his colleagues in London the previous day. First, he explained the role that Mr Murray had played as a director and how he had become more deeply involved than envisaged in Redman Heenan, the Worcester-based engineering group of which he is chairman.

He then went back to the deal—his decision to oppose the deal—some days after the relevant documents had been posted to shareholders—and Mr Murray's further announcement last Thursday afternoon that he would disclose to the press next morning his opposition were the board not to agree to an adjournment.

Mr Bartlett then explained how Newman had produced record profits last year despite the three-day week and how it had strengthened its international marketing. Electric motors, however, remained the company's main product and towards the end of 1974, it had become apparent that the market was heading for a cyclical downturn.

The group had, therefore, decided to capitalize on its strength, its expertise in overseas marketing.

Clearing banks hit by cheaper loans

By Christopher Wilkins
Banking Correspondent

Clearing bank advances during the month to the middle of June showed a much bigger fall than would normally be justified on seasonal grounds.

Loans by the London Clearing Bank to the private sector fell by £377m to £13,496m and to the public sector they were down by £87m to £1,500m. Comparable loans by the Scottish Clearing Bank were down by £36m and £19m.

The banks identify the major part of the decline in loan demand as coming from the manufacturing sector, with no sign of any uplift in demand for investment finance. Extra working capital needs are apparently being met only partially by borrowing from banks, the rest coming from a cutback in stocks and tighter trade credit.

This analysis would appear to suggest that the sluggish levels of demand for loans apparent for most of this year had taken a sharp turn for the worse, but that is almost certainly overstating the case.

According to the Bank of England, the decline in advances by the clearing banks has been offset by a rise in loans by other banks. The reason for the other banks' gain in market share is that short-term interbank rates have been falling at a time when clearing bank base rates have been holding steady.

Because a large part of non-clearing bank advances are related directly to interbank rates the other banks have been able to offer cheaper funds. Overall it would thus appear that the decline in lending may have been no worse than would normally be expected on seasonal grounds.

A notable feature of the Bank of England's own statistics is the rapid rise in the reserve asset ratio of the banking system as a whole from 13.7 to 14.6 per cent. The clearing banks' ratios remained unchanged at 13.6 per cent, reflecting their relatively stagnant circumstances.

But other groups showed dramatic increases. The clearing houses were up from 13.7 to 17.5 per cent, while British Overseas and Commonwealth banks were up from 13.3 to 16.7 per cent.

These increases reflect the large rise in the issue of Treasury bills during the month as part of the programme to finance the Exchequer deficit. Last month the amount of Treasury bills in issue rose from £735m to £1,074m, which compares with February's low figure of £402m and a mere £210m in June last year.

Financial Editor, page 19

Russian gold sales may finance huge grain deal

Signs of growing Soviet activity in Western currency, Eurodollar and gold markets provide evidence that the USSR may be seeking substantial dollar balances for North American grain purchases, according to London bankers quoted by Reuters.

This follows the reports yesterday in London shipping and grain circles that the USSR had apparently chartered up to 19 bulk carriers to carry quantities of North American grain.

London grain dealers estimated that the Russians have provisionally booked for up to 10 million tonnes of grain from North America. Reuters, meanwhile, reported that intense hear has reduced Soviet hopes of a record winter grain crop.

The largest grain deal between the United States and USSR was in 1972-73, when Russia bought some 19 million tonnes of American grain at a cost of more than \$1,000m.

Other signs suggesting a similar large grain deal could be near, included news on Friday by the Swiss gold pool banks that large sales of gold have been made by the USSR.

The Soviet sales, which have been detected in Zurich for several weeks, have at times appeared to approach the amount of gold deliveries from current South African production, according to these banks.

London bankers calculate that sales on this scale could create a dollar income of up to \$100m weekly.

They recalled that the Soviet Union has in the past sold gold to approach the amount of gold deliveries from current South African production, according to these banks.

Some bankers said the Soviet Union also appeared to be seeking substantial dollar foreign exchange from other areas.

The dollar's strong advance in European foreign exchange centres recently, posting a swing of up to 3 per cent against the mark and Swiss franc in the past three weeks, has been accompanied by steady demand from one country, possibly the USSR.

Meanwhile, the Bank of Foreign Trade of the USSR has completed a \$250m medium-term loan in Western Eurocurrency markets.

This is the largest ever formal borrowing by the USSR in Western markets, bankers said.

Miners promised end to coal imports

Paul Roudledge

Coal imports, which last year amounted to nearly four million tons, will cease when present contracts expire, Sir Neil Ezra, chairman of the National Coal Board, told the annual Union of Mineworkers conference in Scarborough yesterday.

He added, however, that the price of coal was pushed up by high wage demands, imports could be resumed.

Sir Derek said: "Concerns have been expressed about imports. Last year when we were severely short of coal, certain quantities had to be imported to keep essential services going."

"What is now being imported is the residue of these contracts to which the electricity and steel industries are committed."

"I have been assured by the chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board and a British Steel Corporation that they have no intention of taking new import contracts, unless we are unable to provide the quantities required, or unless we substantially price ourselves out of the market."

The NCB chairman said that the industry's own failure to meet its target output could restrict its growth, "but so too could the price of coal if it continues to rise as it has in recent years."

The average effective price advantage of coal over oil delivered to power stations has now been eroded from 44 per cent to little more than 10 per cent by a virtual doubling in the price of coal.

Sir Derek said: "Substantially more are already very close to the crossover point where coal could again become uncompetitive against oil. Electricity is our main market; but in other markets too we face a threat."

Our coking coal prices have increased by about 140 per cent over the last year, and as a result imported supplies of much higher quality coking coal are now cheaper than ours at coastal steelworks."

Mr Hoppe's £78,600 a year fee

By Peter Hill

Mr Iver Hoppe, the Danish shipbuilding executive who resigned as managing director of Harland & Wolff Belfast shipbuilders and engineers a year ago, was paid an annual fee of £78,655. In addition, his terms of employment were reviewed annually to reflect increases in the cost of living and fluctuations in the exchange rate between sterling and the Swiss franc.

Details of Mr Hoppe's terms of employment with the soon-to-be-nationalised group, which until now have been a closely guarded secret, were disclosed yesterday in the company's annual report and accounts.

The details are bound to revive the controversy in the House of Commons which followed disclosures in *The Times* earlier this year of Mr Hoppe's links with a Swiss-based consultancy company.

Mr Hoppe, a Danish citizen, was recruited by the Tory Government through a company of professional management consultants in 1971, and when he resigned in August last year—at the request of the Ulster Department of Commerce—his contract still had seven years to run.

Mr Hoppe, in fact, supplied his services to Harland through Shipbuilding Services SA, a consultancy company registered at Fribourg in Switzerland.

Shipbuilding Services, whose sole director is a Swiss lawyer, has laid a claim against Harland & Wolff after Mr Hoppe's departure, although the latter report states: "Council has advised that the company has a good defence against any such claim and consequently no provision has been made in the accounts."

The report, which will be the last produced by the company before its nationalisation, also carries a qualification from chartered accountants, Price Waterhouse & Co., of the directors' assessment of expected losses on its current order book.

£20m loss by Finance for Industry after provisions of £24.5m

By Our Financial Staff

Heavy provisions against possible losses totalling £24.5m have led to a full year pre-tax loss of £19.9m by Finance for Industry, the vehicle through which the City is making £1,000m available for investment by industry. This compares with a profit of £7.5m the previous year.

Despite the recovery in the stock market, which removed the expected necessity to write down the value of equity investments, the provisions emerged about £5m higher than FFI feared at the half-yearly stage.

At that point FFI had reported a pre-tax loss of £2m after special provisions of £4.4m, and had given warning that provisions of a further £15m might be necessary. Yesterday Lord Seabrook, chairman of FFI, said he believed the provisions to be "conservative" and that some of them might eventually be recovered.

Property provisions totalling £8.3m are a major factor, chiefly because of a write-down to current use values of development sites held by Anglia Commercial Properties, the subsidiary which specializes in providing factories for small businesses. A further £1.5m has been allocated in respect of holdings in irredeemable preference shares.

The rest largely relates to investments held by FFI's Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation arm, whose investments at the year's end totalled £241m.

In addition to the pre-tax provisions FFI has made a further extraordinary loss after

| BANK FIGURES | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------|---------|---------------------------------|
| The following are the figures for eligible liabilities and reserve asset ratios of United Kingdom banks released by the Bank of England today: | | | | |
| At month-end | Eligible liabilities £m | Reserve assets £m | Ratio % | Rate of growth at annual rate % |
| 1974 | 30,038 | —1.4 | 13.5 | |
| June | 30,837 | 12.6 | 13.4 | |
| July | 30,856 | 17.6 | 13.4 | |
| Aug | 30,752 | 9.0 | 13.6 | |
| Sept | 31,219 | 5.6 | 13.4 | |
| Oct | 31,461 | 8.1 | 13.5 | |
| Nov | 31,527 | 10.6 | 13.6 | |
| Dec | | | | |
| 1975 | | | | |
| Jan | 31,603 | 4.1 | 13.8 | |
| Feb | 31,857 | 5.1 | 13.5 | |
| March | 32,054 | 8.8 | 13.8 | |
| April | 32,322 | 9.4 | 13.7 | |
| May | 32,504 | 9.7 | 13.7 | |
| June | 30,038 | —22.9 | 13.5 | |

State spending outpacing inflation with 43.9 pc rise

By Tim Congdon

Government spending continued to grow rapidly last month, and expenditure on supply services, which constitute the greater part of central government spending, was £7,423m in the first quarter of the present fiscal year, according to figures released yesterday by the Treasury. This was 43.9 per cent higher than in the first quarter of the last fiscal year.

This was similar to April and May, the first two months of the fiscal year. Then supply services expenditure was 44 per cent up on the first two months of the previous fiscal year.

These rates of growth are much in excess of inflation and of the rate of pay increases in the economy generally. They emphasize the gravity of the problem the Government faces in bringing public sector finances under control.

Buying rush for new 'tap' stock

Heavy buying of the long-dated "tap" stock, Treasury 12½ per cent developed in the gilt-edged market yesterday. It followed strong demand on Friday last week, the first day on which buying of the latest issue of the stock became possible.

The demand has been so heavy that many dealers expected the Government Broker to announce that the issue was exhausted, although he did not do so. The issue amounted to £500m and it would have been extremely unusual if it had been sold within three days.

Buying has been encouraged by prospects of a reduction in the rate of inflation if a statutory incomes policy comes into effect. Yields at the longer end of the gilt market are more than 14 per cent and the stock would be attractive if price increases could be brought down to 10 per cent within a year.

Director repays £200,000

By Desmond Quigley

Mr Michael Buckley, a former director of Charrington, Gardner, Locket, has repaid £263,000 to the company to cover losses made in commodity dealings by a subsidiary of Dundee Perth & London Securities, of which he was chairman, while it was in the process of being taken over by Charrington in 1973.

The losses were not disclosed to the Charrington board for five months.

Mr Rowland Hall, chairman of Charrington said yesterday that Mr Buckley had repaid the company a total of £200,000. The balance of £63,000 was to cover other items such as the company car he retained when he resigned.

Financial news, page 21

Stronger day for pound

Sterling rose strongly on the international currency markets yesterday after the news of a compromise resolution at the miners' conference, and the dropping of the demand for £100 a week for face workers in wage negotiations. The "floating devaluation" rate improved to 27.6 from 27.9 per cent on Monday. The dollar tended to soften, contributing to an 85 point rise to \$2.1955 for sterling against the American currency.

French put case for conference on steel output

Our Industrial Correspondent

Appeals for an international conference, bringing together steel producers, consumers and governments, on the lines of a General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade were made yesterday by Jacques Teyssie, president of the French steel industry Federation.

He said that in the light of a industry's present "crisis" there was an urgent need to establish international guidelines for steel production and use in the industry's production.

He suggested that this might be done along the lines envisaged by GATT for certain farm products and raw materials.

Earlier this year, M. Ferry unsuccessfully appeals to the European authorities for emergency measures to be implemented by the European Community to solve the crisis in the French steel industry, particularly French steelmakers.

Underlining the seriousness of the situation in the French industry, he said that this year would be its first since the end of World War Two with output likely to be 20 per cent below last year's 27m tonnes output.

Investment in the industry a year was now projected at 3,300m (£300m) to 100m compared with earlier estimates of 4,000m. Next year new investment is likely to be cut to the minimum required to maintain equipment.

M. Ferry also gave a warning if there were no signs of recovery after the summer holidays a political choice would have to be made by the government in order to enable companies to survive. Either the government would have to let its workers or it would have to decide on protectionist measures.

Meanwhile, in Japan, Nippon Steel, Japan's largest steel company, in announcing price reasons on steel sold on the domestic market.

£300m improvement in invisible earnings

By Melvyn Westlake

There was an increase of 25 per cent last year in the private sector's surplus on its overseas invisible trade, slightly exceeding a 24.8 per cent jump in the public sector invisible deficit.

According to the annual report of the Committee on Invisible Earnings, published yesterday, the private sector surplus increased from £2,177m in 1973 to a record £2,723m in 1974, while the public sector deficit increased from £889m to £1,235m. The combined (private and public) net surplus rose from £1,188m to £1,488m, a £300m increase.

By far the largest contribution to the private sector invisible surplus came in the form of interest, profits and dividends remitted from abroad, amounting to £1,613m in 1974. A significant part of this figure is attributable to the British oil industry.

Detailed information of invisible earnings by industry is only available up to 1973, but this shows that the City of London's direct contribution to the private invisible surplus has begun to fall sharply, accounting for £704m in 1973, or about one-third of the total, compared with £701m or 48 per cent of the 1972 total.

Tourism and shipping were also big contributors to the total invisible trade surplus. Of the City of London's contribution, insurance accounted for over half, with banking, merchanting and brokerage accounting for much of the balance.

Britain's total share of world invisible trade is shown again to have fallen slightly. The international figures are only available up to 1972, but they indicate that the proportion of such trade enjoyed by Britain slipped from 11.5 per cent in 1971 to 11.2 per cent in 1972. The United States share of invisible receipts has also fallen, from 22.4 per cent to 21.9 per cent, while Japan's share has risen from 3.9 per cent to 4.5 per cent.

West Germany, Italy and France are shown to have maintained their proportions of total invisible trade at 7.7 per cent, 6.1 per cent and 7 per cent respectively.

Sir Cyril Kleinwort, chairman of the Committee on Invisible Exports, envisages, on the basis of a recent survey, that net overseas earnings of the service industries overall will grow, by about 10 per cent this year, despite the world-wide recession.

Myson pulls out of battle for Sealed Motor

By Our Financial Staff

An eight-week takeover battle for control of Sealed Motor Construction, the Bridgewater-based company which holds a dominant position in the British market for central heating pumps, is almost over.

Yesterday Myson said its offer would lapse, leaving the way clear for Adwest, the other bidder, whose £2.4m offer has the backing of the SMC board.

But Myson, a heating and ventilating specialist, said it was acquiring the British business of the American Sundstrand Corporation, a maker of water circulating pumps and a competitor of SMC.

About 80 per cent of Sundstrand (UK) production is exported, but Myson intends to expand British sales and marketing.

The deal with Sundstrand is subject to contract. A Myson spokesman said yesterday: "We are paying substantially less than we offered for SMC for a company we believe has great potential."

How the markets moved

| Rises | | Falls | |
|--------------|-------------|---------------|------------|
| Beecham Grp | 7p to 281p | BB South | 7p to 168p |
| Brit Am Tob | 11p to 322p | St of NSW | 15p to 62p |
| BP | 16p to 335p | Brown H | 20p to 72p |
| Distillers | 21p to 146p | Ingram H | 2p to 25p |
| Fisons | 15p to 375p | Klondike | 5p to 73p |
| Glaxo Hldgs | 10p to 355p | Manning Ind | 1p to 15p |
| GKN | 9p to 240p | Moss Bros | 3p to 25p |
| Hanson Trst | 10p to 170p | Reliance | 1p to 13p |
| Imp Chem Ind | 10p to 270p | Robt Calden | 3p to 30p |
| Imperial Grp | 21p to 681p | Sealed Motor | 1p to 13p |
| Royal | 8p to 285p | Tecalemit | 2p to 26p |
| Sun Alliance | 16p to 403p | UK Props | 1p to 11p |
| Victor | 16p to 714p | Western Areas | 5p to 395p |
| Vickers | 6p to 137p | Winnor Newtes | 5p to 129p |

Equities moved up on bear-closing. Gilt-edged securities were sharply higher. Sterling rose by 85 points to \$2.1955. The "effective devaluation" rate was 27.6 per cent. Gold rose by \$2 to \$165.00 an oz.

SDR-S was 1.22517 on Monday, while SDR-E was 0.561001. Commodities: Cocos and sugar futures moved ahead yesterday. Reuters' commodity index closed at 1,085.5 (1,077.2 on Monday). Reports, pages 21 and 22

THE POUND

THE POUND

10p to 170p
7p to 270p
25p to 68½p
8p to 286p
16p to 403p
16p to 224p
6p to 137p

1p to 131p
3p to 30p
3p to 40p
2p to 26p
2p to 112p
5p to 335p
5p to 128p

2251 on Monday,
was 0.561001.

Cocoa and sugar
ahead yesterday
modity index closed
77.2 on Monday.

pages 21 and 22

| | Bank buys | Bank sells |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------|
| Australia S | 1.71 | 1.66 |
| Austria Sch | 34.25 | 34.25 |
| Belgium Fr | 84.25 | 81.50 |
| Canada S | 2.295 | 2.345 |
| Denmark Kr | 12.55 | 12.15 |
| Finland Mk | 8.45 | 7.80 |
| France F | 2.48 | 2.48 |
| Germany DM | 5.40 | 5.30 |
| Greece Dr | 67.00 | 64.75 |
| Hongkong \$ | 11.05 | 10.65 |
| Italy Lr | 143.90 | 138.00 |
| Japan Yu | 670.00 | 645.00 |
| Netherlands Gld | 5.60 | 5.40 |
| Norway Kr | 11.30 | 10.95 |
| Portugal Esc | 55.00 | 53.00 |
| S Africa Rd | 1.92 | 1.83 |
| Spain Pes | 125.50 | 120.50 |
| Sweden Kr | 9.60 | 9.70 |
| Switzerland Fr | 5.70 | 5.59 |
| US \$ | 2.235 | 2.185 |
| Yugoslavia Dnr | 37.50 | 35.75 |

Rates for bank notes only, as accepted previously by Barclays Bank, subject to national law. Differences relate to currency fluctuations.

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The Chairman Sir Jack Wellings CBE reports

- A record performance by all Divisions of the Group.
- Turnover £152m.
- Profit before Tax £10¼m.
- Profit retained £3m.
- Exports up 63% to £31m.
- A good start for current year.

THE GEORGE COHEN 600 GROUP LIMITED

MACHINE TOOL MANUFACTURERS • ENGINEERS • STEEL DISTRIBUTORS • SCRAP PROCESSORS

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A copy of the report and accounts for the year to 31st March, 1975 can be obtained from the Secretary, The George Cohen 600 Group Ltd., Wood Lane, London W12 7RL.

Mitsubishi acts over ship orders slump

By Peter Hill

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, one of Japan's largest ship-building groups, has halted recruitment and banned overtime because of the slump in demand for large oil tankers, which for years have formed the base of its order book.

While it is not planning any lay-offs for at least 18 months because orders will keep the yards at Nagasaki busy for two and a half years, the company is studying the possibility of transferring shipyard workers to other divisions within the company.

Senior executives of Mitsubishi quoted by agency reports from Japan yesterday, believe that the slump in the tanker market will last for a long time. They emphasized that they are seeking to diversify production into smaller ships of all types and oil rigs, which could be built at "very competitive prices".

According to officials the Mitsubishi yards at Nagasaki are working at 20 per cent below their normal levels.

The company is supporting pleas by the Japanese ship-building industry for the government to give financial support so that the yards can weather the recession.

Further evidence of the worsening situation in the tanker market came in reports yesterday from Singapore. According to port officials there five tankers, including the British-operated liquefied petroleum gas carrier, Norman Lady, are to be laid up in the port.

A port authority spokesman said the owners and operators of eight other very large crude carriers had applied to lay up their vessels at Singapore.

Labour disputes blamed for fall of one-third in UK car production

By Edward Townsend

The dramatic fall in output in United Kingdom car factories, caused chiefly by labour troubles, continued last month. Official figures published yesterday show that production was down by more than a third on June last year.

Estimated output at 109,000 was well above the depressed May figure—the worst for 13 years—but still compares unfavourably with the 165,000 cars manufactured 12 months before.

Production of commercial vehicles also suffered. An estimated 35,000 units were produced, a weekly average of

7,000, which was 15 per cent down on June of last year.

Yesterday's figures, issued by the Department of Industry, show that output of cars in the second quarter, taking seasonal factors into consideration, was 25 per cent down on the first quarter as a result of lower demand and industrial disputes.

New car sales in June, according to department returns, were 93,200 in April, but on a seasonally-adjusted basis show little change. There was a 15 per cent drop in second-quarter registrations.

The worst-affected company

last month was Chrysler, which suffered badly from the big strike at its Stoke engines and transmissions plant in Coventry and another at its nearby plastics components plant. Chrysler's share of the United Kingdom market fell as a result to 4.7 per cent.

Figures out later this week are expected to show that Chrysler sold just over 4,700 cars in Britain last month, but output has picked up well since the end of the strikes and has now reached more normal levels. The dispute caused the company to lose production of more than 9,000 cars.

Key strike decision tomorrow at Leyland

By R. W. Shakespeare

About 800 workers from a key British Leyland components plant, whose two-week strike over demands for a £10 a week interim pay settlement has already made about 11,000 workers idle, and cost lost production of cars worth about £12.5m, will be meeting tomorrow to decide on their next moves.

It will be their last opportunity to vote before their plant closes at the weekend for the summer holidays. Most of the Leyland plants being disrupted shut down for holidays a week later.

This means that unless the strike is called off, British Leyland faces the prospect of no more production in several of its chief centres for at least the next three weeks.

The men on strike, from a British Leyland subsidiary at Hemel Hempstead, claim that their earnings have fallen behind those in other plants.

They are demanding the extra £10 a week at once, although their wage agreement, which brought them pay rises of about 20 per cent last year, does not run out until the end of September.

The stoppage has led to a standstill on assembly lines in Coventry, Liverpool, Oxford and Basildon, which produce a range of Triumph cars except the 2000 range, the Austin 18/22 range, Jaguars and MG Midgets.

Lay-offs include 2,500 workers at Jaguar Coventry, more than 4,500 Triumph workers at Coventry and Liverpool, about 1,300 Austin workers at Cowley and about 140 at the Abingdon MG plant. Other groups of workers have also been laid off.

Up to last night British Leyland had lost production of about 3,500 Triumph cars, 900 Jaguars, 700 18/22 cars and 160 MGs.

British Leyland is resisting the pay demands, because the strike is unofficial.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Civil servants' double standard on pay

From Professor D. A. Bullough

Sir, Mr Woolf's justifiably pointed comparison of the massive improvement in civil servant's pay over 31 inflationary years with the shabby treatment accorded to himself and his fellow MPs—fellow winners, whatever the country's difficulties, I as a citizen derive no satisfaction—has a relevance also to the same columns commenting on the housing costs of young lecturers as a proportion of their salaries.

University teachers' recent request for an adjustment in their salaries which would have

raised their increase in the same period from 15.20 per cent (according to grade) to a mere 35.40 per cent, and therefore still less than the rise in the cost of living, was successfully opposed by senior officials of the relevant departments, secure in a 70 per cent plus increase (and a non-contributory pension scheme!). On the grounds that was the inflationary and a breach of the grotesquely named "Social Contract".

Am I alone in finding this difficult to reconcile with the traditional objectivity and integrity of the administrative grades of the Civil Service?

Incidentally, my younger col-

leagues here would be delighted if they could find family housing for an outlay of as little as £10 per week. On a house of Parker-Morris standard, the amount which has to be found for interest charges after deduction of tax (which it now becoming customary to describe as a subsidy to the owner-occupier) and rates also is almost never less than £20 per annum, and for many it is considerably more (capital payment is, of course, addition to this).

Yours faithfully,
D. A. BULLOUGH,
St Andrew's University,

Air travel levy plan to protect holiday makers

By Arthur Reed

Air Correspondent

Licensed air travel organizers will have to make contributions to the Air Travel Reserve Fund, which provides increased protection for holidaymakers going abroad by air, under draft regulations just published.

For the period September 1 this year to April 1, 1976, organizers must contribute to the fund a sum equal to one per cent of their turnover during that period as a condition of holding a licence. From April 1 the contribution will increase to two per cent of turnover.

The Department of Trade said that it would be up to each travel organizer to decide whether to pass on to the customer any of his contributions as part of the cost of the holiday.

The fund was set up by the Government as a second line of defence, after organizers' individual bonding arrangements, against losses to holidaymakers arising from a company through which they have booked going out of business.

Birds Eye profits halved in two years by price controls

By Hugh Clayton

Price controls have halved the profit margins of Birds Eye Foods in the past two years and had reduced them to a third of their proper level, Mr Kenneth Webb, chairman of the company, said yesterday.

"We are planning to restructure much of our manufacturing and distribution facilities over the next five years at an average annual cost of £6m", he said at the company's annual review in London. "To spend this sort of money we need to be able to make appropriate profit margins."

He added that the company,

the largest processor of frozen food in the country, needed £40m of working capital a year to stay in business. "Although we want to invest and develop, our confidence in the future has inevitably been blunted by the uncertain state of the economy since 1969/70. That's five years or more of uncertainty, and it's quite taken the shine off business efforts."

The fuel bill of Birds Eye had risen by 35 per cent in the past 12 months and labour costs by 28 per cent. Yet the food industry was still saddled with price controls and "the cost of the attendant bureaucracy — and what a fantastic cost that is".

Gas service complaints up

By Roger Vielvoys

Complaints about the sales and servicing of gas appliances to regional gas consumer councils increased by 30 per cent last year, and now account for 40 per cent of the representations made to these bodies.

Defective new gas appliances and the sluggish supply of spare parts account for a high proportion of these complaints. Baroness Macleod of Borve, chairman of the National Gas Consumers Council, said at the publication of the organization's annual report yesterday.

Italian ministers look at ways to boost economy

From John Earle

Rome, July 8

Signor Aldo Moro, the Italian Prime Minister, today held a meeting of ministers to discuss the country's growing difficulties and measures to prevent the recession becoming a slump.

Signor Emilio Colombo, the Treasury Minister, said later that the meeting surveyed what had been done in the last six months and what measures still needed to be approved by parliament before the summer recess. He said moves were pending in the promotion of exports, mechanization of agriculture, building and public works, but gave no details.

The ministers agreed that Signor Ugo La Malfa, Deputy Prime Minister and Republican Party leader, would draw up a document on the present situation of the anti-recession policy, which would then be discussed by the parties supporting the government.

Signor Colombo spoke in less alarmist tones than some sectors of the press which have been suggesting that an emergency package for the economy is in the offing. The public has been shocked by statistics that industrial production in May was 18.7 per cent less than 12 months earlier, and that unemployment was over the 1 million mark.

Official unemployment figures always tend to be over-modest, and opposition politicians have maintained that the level is nearer 1.5 million.

The effect of those adverse figures has been greater because they followed weeks of official optimism after the improvement in the balance of payments and a slowdown in inflation.

Signor La Malfa expressed his own pessimism in a message today to the Republican Party. It was wrong to think that the situation was the sole responsibility of the government, because it needed the maximum attention of parliament, organizations of employers and

unions, local authorities and politicians.

Unless all these forces pulled together, Signor La Malfa said: "It will be impossible to overcome the crisis, indeed one can fear its relentless aggravation."

Repercussions of the crisis at the regional level were illustrated by Signor Carlo de Benedetti, president of the Turin Industrialists Association, who said productive capacity in the industrial region of Piedmont was "blocked and in the process of deteriorating".

Industry, he said, was condemned to live on a day-to-day basis, in the absence of any official planning.

OECD nations forecast upturn

Geneva, July 8.—Mr Emilio van Lennep, Secretary General of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, today forecast the start of an economic upturn, though not initially a steep one, in the near future.

He told the United Nations economic and social council that in the first half of next year, the 24-nation OECD area as a whole should have an annual growth rate of about 4 per cent in real terms. This compared with a minus 3.5 per cent rate in the first half of this year.

Unwarranted criticism of Rent Act

From Mr David Whitley

Sir, There has been considerable adverse comment on the 1974 Rent Act in your recent correspondence columns. Most of this comment I find difficult to understand, but I am particularly nonplussed by the letter from Mr R. D. O'Driscoll.

Mr O'Driscoll describes himself as a solicitor who could not advise a client to let his property unless there was absolutely no alternative. I, too, am a solicitor and I would like your space to refute the charges which Mr O'Driscoll makes against the 1974 Act.

The 1974 Rent Act extended the security of tenure and earlier provisions of earlier legislation relating only to furnished tenancies, to unfurnished tenancies. Mr O'Driscoll concedes that this abolished the "rather artificial" distinction between furnished and unfurnished tenancies. He objects to the principles of security of tenure and rent control, and not to their mere extension to furnished tenancies. He is, effectively, objecting to the plugging of a gap in the legislation.

With regard to the security of tenure aspect, it should be made clear to your readers that there are wide grounds for possession in the legislation, and given that the landlord can establish one of these, the court's discretion as to enforcement is minimal. If the landlord "suffers" by not recovering possession, it is invariably because the tenant is in a far worse position.

Mr O'Driscoll complains that the chances of the landlord recovering the legal costs of proceedings for possession "are virtually negligible". Even accepting that this is the position, this is surely a fault in the administration of justice, not a fault in the legislation.

Mr O'Driscoll's principal complaint, and one suggests

that this is the fundamental objection to the Rent Acts, is that "fair rent" does not mean "fair rent" but something else.

Without devoting too much space to the machinery established by Parliament for the assessment of fair rents, it is worthwhile pointing out that rent officers have considerable experience in valuing and related fields, and that the legislation directs them to take into account certain factors, while excluding others.

Moreover, rent assessment committees, to which an appeal lies against the rent officer's decision are invariably composed of one lawyer, one valuer and one lay chairman.

The objection, of course, is that Parliament directs that scarcity value, or "market factors" as Mr O'Driscoll calls it, shall be ignored when assessing a fair rent. This direction denies landlords the opportunity to exploit the shortage of housing in our country. It runs contrary to the doctrine of laissez faire in so far as it maintains at a reasonable level, rents which would otherwise spiral as supply decreases.

Of course, where no fair rent is registered for a property, these "market factors" will have been in operation. A prospective tenant will find that in order to obtain a roof over his head, he will have to put his signature to an agreement which if he were in an equal bargaining position, he would never subscribe to.

It is difficult to see why a man who signs an agreement, which he would not otherwise have signed, because there is a gun at his head, is in any different position from the prospective tenant faced with the alternative of agreeing to a rent he cannot afford or walking the streets. Parliament, fortunately, has recognized this difficulty in including rent

control provisions in the Rent Acts.

Of course the legislation overrides "the sanctity of contract". Of course it is a "tutary interference". But, our modern society, where the market economy exercises power, the concept of sanctity of contract is dying. If dead. One wonders what, ipso facto, Mr O'Driscoll would say that "difficulties" caused in this "country" by legislation which more than eighty years ago introduced into "contracts freely and honourably made implied terms which are virtually inalienable, to protect consumers in sale of goods transactions".

Second, by the 1974 Consumer Credit Act which inter alia ensures "truth in lending" and imposes strict supervision of the credit industry.

Third, by the legislation which established the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and the Restrictive Trade Practices legislation.

The writer respectfully suggests that all such measures, including the Rent Acts, essential in order that a degree of fairness be maintained in a market economy where there is so often grossly unequal bargaining power.

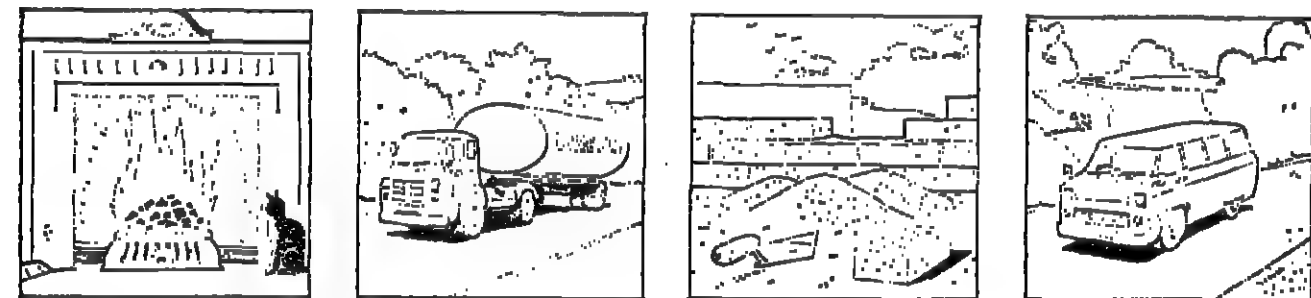
Yours faithfully,
DAVID WHITLEY,
16 Morgan Road,
Bromley, Kent.

Rank and file

From Mr C. F. Riley

Sir, I should like to comment on the letter from Sir Ron Price. How does one complain about officers of his department when they will not give their name or rank?

Yours faithfully,
C. RILEY,
184 Hookfield,
Harlow, Essex.



| | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Solid Fuel £38 million | Fuel Oil £48 million | Builder's Merchants £10 million | Vehicle Production & Distribution £25 million |
| Transport, Warehousing & Shipping £11 million | Sheep Farming £2 million | Property & Finance £0.2 million | |

THE CHARRINGTON GARDNER LOCKET STORY (or how diversity brings higher turnover)

Salient points from the Statement by the Chairman, Mr. Rowland C. Hall:—

General Our profits for the final quarter were higher than those for the whole of the previous nine months. The trading results for our continuing activities showed an improvement on the previous year. We are recommending a final ordinary dividend of 1.9p, an increase for the eighth successive year.

The high level of inflation led to an increase in Group borrowings, but we have adequate facilities for our coming needs and stringent controls are being exercised to reduce interest costs.

Solid Fuel Despite yet another mild winter the rate of net profit has been maintained. Close co-operation exists between ourselves, the National Coal Board, private producers and British Rail. Prospects depend upon next winter's weather and continuity of supplies.

Fuel Oil Substantial increase in turnover was caused by the dramatic rise in world prices. Our

distribution system, together with loyal customers and a world-wide adjustment to the oil prices enables us to face a daunting future with confidence.

Builder's Merchants Rymp Ltd. produced their second highest profits ever and with our modern warehouses and expertise we are well placed to take full advantage of the inevitable upsurge in the building trade.

Vehicles Despite some improvement in the final quarter this division, in common with the motor industry, had a disappointing year.

Transport, Warehousing and Shipping An appreciable increase in profits was achieved by this division with acquisitions of previous years now fully integrated.

Sheep Farming As a result of successful forward trading in wool the Falkland Islands Company had a very profitable year. But the outlook for the current year is far from encouraging owing to a fall of more than 50% in wool prices.

The Future The Group is in good shape, both materially and in terms of personnel, and well placed to take advantage of any improvement in the economic climate.

Charrington, Gardner, Locket & Co Ltd

If you would like to read the full story please write for a copy of the Report and Accounts to The Secretary, Charrington, Gardner Locket & Co. Ltd, Charrington House, Bishop Stortford, Hertfordshire CM23 2EW.

Last year you enjoyed our success enormously.

Last year was another good one for Pauls and Whites. Our turnover increased by 22% and pre-tax profits were up by 14%. And all this in the face of extremely adverse conditions.

If you had anything to eat or drink over the year it was a success you probably had a taste of.

For Pauls and Whites are closely involved in the process of bringing better food and drink to your table.

As one of the major animal feed producers in the UK, conditions in the farming industry are of obvious significance to us. 1974 was a bad year for livestock farmers, who had to cope with substantial cost increases and low prices for their products. Our raw materials bill for animal feeds rose dramatically — indeed this largely accounted for the increase in our turnover — and national demand for animal feeds declined.

At the same time, as Europe's second largest maltster we were able to take full

advantage of the technical improvements we have made in our maltings in recent years, and this side of the business had a good year.

All in all, behind our financial results there lies a substantial contribution towards keeping Britain in food and drink.

| | 1975 | 1974 |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|
| Turnover | £90,084 | £73,641 |
| Net profit before tax | 2,809 | 2,468 |
| Net profit after tax | 1,271 | 1,312 |
| Dividends | 549 | 476 |
| Earnings per share | 7.08p | 7.59p |

If you would like the detailed story of how we did last year, write for a copy of our report and accounts to The Secretary, Pauls and Whites Ltd., Key Street, Ipswich, Suffolk.

Pauls & Whites Ltd.
Food and drink.
It's our business.



هكذا من الأصل

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Borrowing trends and capital investment



Lord Seebohm, chairman of the Financial Services Commission, is seen here.

There were, in addition, associate companies to the value of £4.2m, and the bulk of the rise there from £1.3m in the preceding year relates to the 1974 purchase of a 29.35 per cent stake in J. W. Cameron, the north-eastern brewer.

Given the recovery in the market since end-December and the fact that the group is "currently quite fully invested in equities", the implication is that somewhere around half of its assets are deployed in the developing business. The contribution to profits is by no means of the same magnitude yet, although last year's £8.2m contribution to trading profits from Ellerman City Lines owed a lot to boom conditions in the shipping market.

This time round "we cannot be optimistic that 1975 will be as successful", although the group is looking for £4m profit in the first half of the year. Significantly, Ellerman is continuing to invest in shipping, although with the emphasis on new types of ships to counter the cargo cycle.

Taken in conjunction with the other capital spending plans, this suggests that the change in the emphasis of portfolio investment management so that it is now regarded "as an alternative source of funds for the group's main trading activities" could mean that the group is prepared to dismember its portfolios.

But the strong cash flow, negligible tax charge and large cash balances—which the directors are well aware are losing value hand over fist—suggest that their development into an alternative profit centre on the British and Commonwealth model is a much more likely prospect.

Accounts 1974-75 (1973-74)
Capitalization £10.6m
Net assets £28.8m (£27.6m)
Net cash £2.0m (£2.5m)
Pre-tax profit £4.12m (£4.60m)
Earnings per share 17.9p (19.3p)

Ellerman Lines
An alternative source of funds

To go by the balance sheet it is now an anachronism to think of Ellerman Lines in terms of a private shipping empire. At the end of 1974 total capital employed was £72.4m, and that took in £16.8m in cash (as against £13.5m at the end of the preceding year), £2.25m in short-term quoted investments; £6.16m in long-term loans; £7.86m in long-term quoted investments at market values, and another £93,000 in unquoted securities.

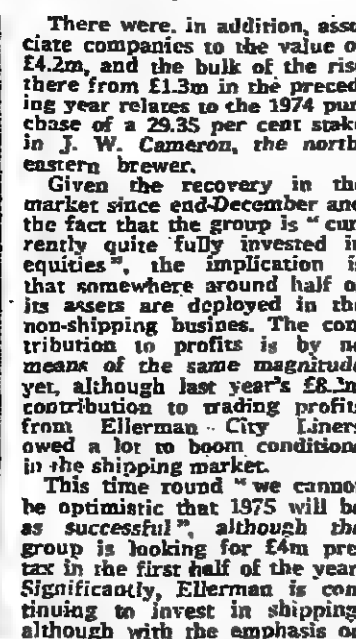
Western Trust & Savings, whose parent the Plymouth-based Western Credit banking group was absorbed by its major shareholders, Philadelphia National Bank and Arbutnot Latham at an early stage in the secondary bank merger, has come up with a novel method of attracting deposits from the public. Depositors lodging between £500 and £10,000 for two or three years get the bonus of free life insurance, equal to the amount deposited, and accident insurance, equal to twice the amount on deposit. Up to 10 per cent of the deposit can be withdrawn in any year and up to three-quarters of the balance can be made available in overdraft form.

It is heartening to see any measures that help to bring in medium-term funds to institutions which have enjoyed less than free access to bank money, but would be depositors ought to be aware that the 10 per cent rate of interest offered by WT & S measures against rates of 12 per cent or more from some local authorities for deposits of similar maturity. Depositors should ask themselves whether the insurance benefits are sufficient compensation to justify foregoing the better return and the greater security offered by local authorities.

Webb then took to the stage. Birds Eye, he said, would need a lot of bright, well-trained people in the years to come. Women, he added, were sadly under-represented in business management and he urged the private business to discipline itself.

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Lord Seebohm, chairman of the Financial Services Commission, is seen here.

There were, in addition, associate companies to the value of £4.2m, and the bulk of the rise there from £1.3m in the preceding year relates to the 1974 purchase of a 29.35 per cent stake in J. W. Cameron, the north-eastern brewer.

Given the recovery in the market since end-December and the fact that the group is "currently quite fully invested in equities", the implication is that somewhere around half of its assets are deployed in the developing business. The contribution to profits is by no means of the same magnitude yet, although last year's £8.2m contribution to trading profits from Ellerman City Lines owed a lot to boom conditions in the shipping market.

This time round "we cannot be optimistic that 1975 will be as successful", although the group is looking for £4m profit in the first half of the year. Significantly, Ellerman is continuing to invest in shipping, although with the emphasis on new types of ships to counter the cargo cycle.

Taken in conjunction with the other capital spending plans, this suggests that the change in the emphasis of portfolio investment management so that it is now regarded "as an alternative source of funds for the group's main trading activities" could mean that the group is prepared to dismember its portfolios.

But the strong cash flow, negligible tax charge and large cash balances—which the directors are well aware are losing value hand over fist—suggest that their development into an alternative profit centre on the British and Commonwealth model is a much more likely prospect.

Accounts 1974-75 (1973-74)
Capitalization £10.6m
Net assets £28.8m (£27.6m)
Net cash £2.0m (£2.5m)
Pre-tax profit £4.12m (£4.60m)
Earnings per share 17.9p (19.3p)

Ellerman Lines
An alternative source of funds

To go by the balance sheet it is now an anachronism to think of Ellerman Lines in terms of a private shipping empire. At the end of 1974 total capital employed was £72.4m, and that took in £16.8m in cash (as against £13.5m at the end of the preceding year), £2.25m in short-term quoted investments; £6.16m in long-term loans; £7.86m in long-term quoted investments at market values, and another £93,000 in unquoted securities.

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Pay questions to which Mr Healey's White Paper must give a crystal clear answer

The chairman and senior directors of about a hundred of Britain's biggest enterprises will gather this morning at 21, Tothill Street, Westminster. Later many of them are due to attend the meeting of the governing council of the Confederation of British Industry. The council's policy decisions will guide what the CBI's leaders have to say when they call at the Treasury at about 7 pm.

At the Treasury, the Chancellor, a draft White Paper in his back pocket, will be listening to both the employers' team and also the TUC's own denunciation before advising the Cabinet on whether to accept a statutory wage policy.

Six days have passed since the Chancellor's sudden statement on wage inflation, putting a deadline on joint TUC-CBI talks on pay and prices. During that time, the main body of employers have heard only that statement and some reporting of various meetings behind closed doors. If CBI leaders have misjudged anything, then they will certainly hear as it is today when the members turn to speak out as the men who meet the wage bills, take investment decisions and find the work

necessary to make profits for corporate survival. Businessmen are realists. Few are expecting anything other than that the Government will itself define a wage policy to bring down the level of future settlements. This they will welcome, but employers will not thank their leaders if, by acquiescence or playing politics, they allow the Chancellor to place the ultimate responsibility for standing firm solely on boards of directors, subject to legal sanctions.

The TUC does not have any ultimate power to control its constituent unions. Indeed, a government rejection of any TUC anti-inflation package based on a flat-rate increase of 5 per cent for everyone earning less than £7,000 a year would relieve even the most loyal unions of implicit obligations to hold the line. For the risk of implementing the Government's statutory alternative, whatever the terms, would pass to employers, who could not rely on total TUC commitment and who could not see any sense in a strike which would be no collective bargaining and arbitration was once again constrained.

Further, the employer, with his squeezed profits and falling order books, will apparently be faced with new interference in the price mechanism. If the Chancellor's statement is any guide, the already complicated and rigid price code will be further amended. Within Whitehall, the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, which has no experience on wage issues, and its Price Commission must start cutting across the Department of Employment, which knows more than others about unions, whether cooperating with governments or not.

Assuming that the TUC (whose members can sign anything but not guarantee observing by autonomous unions) fails to impress the Chancellor with hurriedly prepared proposals, the employers, who are also autonomous and guided by individual priorities, will require a White Paper written in plain, simple English, which they can interpret without too great a risk of significant deviation. That was the greatest lesson learned by the now disbanded Pay Board, which exactly a year ago as a last act set out its experience in a Crown document that was totally ignored in the post-miners rush to jack up wages.

The fact is that a 10 per cent limit, or a flat rate cash sum, will need to be clearly defined. Grievances flourish if anyone seems to steal a march on another or special pleading is allowed.

A large number of workers, for example, have already accepted pay awards which include a deferred element. Will these be allowed? Or are they to be principal settlements, counting against the new pay limit?

Those who are in this situation include workers at Ford, Vauxhall and Swan Hunter and in general engineering, textiles, history and car repairing.

Large numbers of workers have wage agreements including some form of indexation or threshold clause. Examples are busmen, steelworkers, carpet makers, bank staff, tobacco employees and oil workers. Employers will want guidance on what are principal settlements, bonuses, special payments for productivity gains and so on. How do they deal with staff who are promoted and qualify for extra pay for added responsibility? What does the exporter do when he needs to attract labour in a particular area?

These and many other questions have to be covered by the forthcoming White Paper

or any scheme put up from the TUC. To ignore them does not remove them. Then there is the question of policing the next pay round. If the Price Commission takes on new responsibilities for the private sector through penal clauses under its code, will it have guidance on arbitration awards above 10 per cent (or whatever), differential erosion, cuts in hours or longer holidays, casual pay, and seasonal pay adjustments, job description changes, fringe benefits and so on? Can it act against banks and other financial institutions, where the price code provisions do not fully prevail?

Above all, policing wage settlements in this way, even with the best guidelines, has one serious flaw. Action against employers will take place after the offence, whereas the Pay Board had a vetoing role. Prevention is just as vital in police activity as detection.

No doubt employers will be pointing this out today. Perhaps the Chancellor may yet be forced to undertake a more drastic revision of the Price Commission so that pay claims are monitored at an early stage and "rogue" workers are identified before public opinion.

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Maurice Corina

A Middle East threat to natural gas prices

A drive at night along the desert road from the Saudi Arabian capital Riyadh to the oil town of Dhahran on the Gulf provides one of the most spectacular sights in the Middle East. A sheer of flame half a mile long and several hundred feet high rises out of the desert, illuminating the sky and quizzing numerous oil producing installations on the horizon.

The flames continue night and day, fueled by the natural gas produced in association with oil. Each of these flares, and there are many visible from the roadside, wastes sufficient gas to provide heating and cooking as well as energy, for industry in a town the size of Coventry.

The Saudis are working on an ambitious project to collect the surplus gas from the oil fields and build a pipeline to the Red Sea coast where the gas would provide the feedstock for a petrochemical complex.

Across the Gulf Iran, too, has a number of schemes for reducing the wasteful burning of "associated gas", as it is known. These include a complex tripartite deal with the Russians and the West Germans to expand European gas supplies, and schemes for liquefying the gas and shipping it by tanker to Japan.

Transporting gas over long distances has become feasible only during the last 10 years. Unfortunately most of the main oilfields in the Middle East were established before long-distance piping through almost any natural conditions and the liquefaction of gas for movement by tankers reached their present state of development.

Small amounts of gas can be reinjected into the oil reservoir, but over a long period the reinjection of large quantities can cause damage and affect oil production. As a result, the oil companies have flared off the surplus gas.

The worldwide market for gas is almost unlimited. The United States policy of maintaining low domestic prices has discouraged exploration for new fields with the result that present known reserves can

probably last only another 12 years or so.

Japan, plagued with environmental problems, wants all the pollution-free natural gas it can lay its hands on. The discovery of the huge reserves in Holland and the North Sea has given Europe a taste for gas that it is now difficult to satisfy.

In these prevailing world conditions some experts were surprised by last month's decision of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries

advantages" of high energy value and pollution-free burning.

If direct comparisons with oil are to be the yardstick for the coordination big increases can be expected in all export prices. However, if the experts interpret their brief as coordination of prices within the present widely ranging individual export contracts, increases in many areas would be negligible, though a few of the contracts written during the 1960s, in an earlier era of gas trading, would need sizable price increases.

Opec's experts are well aware that they are dealing with a completely different situation from that of oil. Because of the difficulties in transporting the fuel, a gasfield is usually tied to a specific market. A pipeline built from the field to a market makes it almost impossible for a producer to switch to a new customer at higher prices without large capital expenditure and long delays. Similarly the consumer would find it difficult to find a new supplier in an emergency.

Liquefaction of gas and transportation by tanker give a little more flexibility, but not on the scale of crude oil trading, where supplies can be diverted to almost any part of the world at a moment's notice.

Experts in the consuming countries have been surprised

that Opec has made the decision to attempt price coordination at a time when its members could be on the verge of increasing the penetration of gas in world markets. Opec control of prices at this stage could force potential customers to think again about adapting their energy economy mix to incorporate a fuel that could be subject to the same pressures as oil.

They also point out that Opec controls less than one-third of the world's gas reserves and with non-member countries like Holland, Norway and the Soviet Union all large forces in the export business the oil producers could not hope to dominate the market

in the same way they do with oil. The results of the Opec deliberations will be watched with interest by these countries. Non-Opec oil producers have been quick to bring their prices into line with the higher levels and there is no reason to believe that this would not happen in the gas business.

Amid all the uncertainty over international prices, the United Kingdom is virtually unaffected. The British Gas Corporation's monopoly purchasing power for gas found in British territory to a large extent isolates its negotiations for new supplies from conditions prevailing in other parts of the world.

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Whitecroft

"... company has a firm foundation upon which to continue its successful expansion programme of recent years." — Mr. E. G. Goold, Chairman

Record profits earned for third year running—285% higher than 3 years ago

- Group pre-tax profits £3,277,000 (last year £3,148,000)
- Earnings and net tangible assets per ordinary stock unit again increased
- Maximum permitted dividend recommended—four times covered
- Adequate financial resources available to finance planned growth

Summary of results

| | 1974/5 £ | 1973/4 £ |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Turnover | 38,005,000 | 31,719,000 |
| Profit before taxation | 3,277,000 | 3,148,000 |
| Profit after taxation and minority interests | 1,535,000 | 1,511,000 |
| Attributable to each ordinary stock unit: | | |
| Earnings | 19.23p | 18.91p |
| Dividends | 4.877p | 4.49p |
| Net tangible assets | 164p | 159p |
| Dividend—times covered | 3.94 | 4.21 |

Whitecroft Limited

Textiles, building, building supplies, engineering and leather

Copies of the report and chairman's statement may be obtained from:
The Company Secretary at
Blackfriars House, Parsonage, Manchester M3 2HX

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Long gilts close sharply higher

Stock markets were dominated yesterday by a strong rise in gilt edged, in anticipation of a move towards moderation at the miners' conference. Equities, also edged forward but turnover remained very thin.

The first reports from the miners' meeting, which arrived just before the market closed, lacked detail. Shares were marked higher but there was no increase in buying pressure. The market indices rose by around 2.7 per cent, the FT index putting on 8.7 points to 326.4.

Gilts advanced strongly on a broad front. Heavy buying of

There was support for shares in Distillers, 21p up at 146p, after the announcement that the final results will be disclosed on July 17.

the long-dated "tap" stock developed, with dealers estimating the Government broker's sales at between £100m and £150m.

Hopes of a reduction in inflation, focused by the Government's intention to introduce a statutory pay policy if voluntary methods fail, were the main buying influence.

Gains in "longs" were in the 1 to 2 point range. Prices closed at the top after a day which dealers described as very busy.

Business appointments

Mr B. Scott joins Lloyds Bank board

Mr B. F. W. Scott has joined the board of Lloyds Bank. Sir Reay Geddes has become a director of The Rank Organisation.

The following have joined the board of Oriel Foods: Mr R. Nicholson, director, food processing; Mr Norman Rayner, group financial controller; and Mr David Rostrick, director, personnel.

Mr J. J. Bayley, Mr G. C. Mussen and Mr P. J. Quinlan are to become members of James Capel & Co on July 12.

Mr G. A. Brown has been made personnel director of Tupperware.

Mr N. V. Pinks has become chief manager in London of Australia and New Zealand Banking Group, since the retirement of Mr R. J. Sutton. Deputy chief managers are Mr C. R. Bennett and Mr R. W. J. Horne.

Mr Keith Seabury has joined the board of WPS Communications & Marketing.

Mr G. Latham has been made a joint managing director of International Stores. Mr P. W. Longland joins the board in place of Mr R. J. Ogle.

Mr E. S. K. Greenless and Mr R. T. Sykes will be retiring from membership of Laid and Cruickshank on July 31.

Mr Roy Ringer has been made a director and general manager of Air Drive. Mr W. Ludlow becomes works director.

Mr Eric Wood, managing director of Anglo-Swiss Screw, has been appointed to the board of Anglo-Swiss Holdings. Mr James Luck, managing director of British Engraving & Nameplate and Metal Components has also joined the board.

Mr John Gerrard has become group financial controller of Alpine Holdings.

Mr Mark Layton and Mr Michael Feliden have joined the board of Incomes Data Services.

Mr Lewis Kuttin has been made financial director and secretary of Newton Chambers Engineering and secretary of its subsidiary Ensovue. Mr Ronald Law has joined Ensovue as director and general manager.

Mr R. Langford has been made a non-executive director of Fluidrive Engineering.

Mr Richard Pollen becomes a director of Charles Barker City. Mr Anthony Cardew has been made an associate director.

Mr J. E. Hinde, chairman and chief executive of Culler Hammer Europa, has been elected chairman of the Control and Automation Manufacturers' Association.

Mr Graham Reid has become director of manpower intelligence and planning on the Manpower.

Mr J. A. Sutt, joint managing director of Berwin & Timpson, has been made a director of its recently acquired subsidiary, Park Toys.

The following new appointments have been made to Regional Industrial Development Boards in England: Northern: Mr P. R. Baines and Mr G. D. Dixon; North-Western: Mr G. N. Hague, Mr T. D. Parr, Mr W. H. Aldridge and Mr D. G. Farrar; Yorkshire and Humber: Mr G. W. Candelet and Mr G. N. S. Horsley; South-Western: Mr S. Brownings, Mr D. M. Gillespie and Mr W. H. Stephens.

Mr J. Sadiq and Mr R. Bourne have resigned as directors and Mr A. Hill, Mr A. J. Harding and Mr B. S. Winston have joined the board of G. F. Lovell.

Mr John Perks, deputy chairman of the Concorde Group, has become chief executive after the recent management restructure.

Mr Albert Bache has been made director of manufacturing at Tower Housewares.

Mr C. C. Gregory has joined the board of Marshall Morgan and Scott.

Mr Paul Affaire has been made a director of Rank Xerox and becomes chief staff officer.

Mr A. R. Radcliffe has joined the board of Economic Forestry (Northern) as financial director.

Mr D. M. McL. Burnell, deputy chairman and chief executive of Anglo American Asphalt, has been made a director of W. & J. Glos-

Mr R. W. Taylor and Mr I. G. Sampson were appointed to the board of Target Trust Group.

Mr G. M. Laurie has become a director of T. A. Cuthill & Partners.

Mr John Pryle joins the board of Blue Service Shops as financial director.

Mr Percy Gander has been appointed technical director-designate of Eagle International.

Mr A. Taylor becomes a director of Third Mile Investment.

Mr John Wake has been made managing director of Grosvenor Estate Commercial Development, in succession to Mr Kenneth Eyres, who becomes deputy chairman.

"Shorts" were also active, in contrast to recent sessions when they have tended to be neglected. Rises ranged up to 1 point. Dealers said that much of this represented bear-closing, although new buying was also significant.

Turnover in equities remained very disappointing. A total of only 4,782 marked bargains— together with the disclosure that Monday's turnover in equities was worth only £35m, barely one third of bull market conditions—confirmed that share prices are moving on largely technical factors. Jobbers books are still tight, and prices responded quickly to some bear closing during the morning.

Followed by some speculative investment towards the end of the session.

The market leaders were marked up by one penny or so as the City heard that the Yorkshire Miners had withdrawn their "demand" for £100 a week. But there were few takers of stock, and some prices topped off in the final minutes of the trading day.

The equity market postponed its response to the miners' conference until today, when it can "read the small print" as one dealer put it.

The final flurry added about 3p to ICI, which closed 7p up at 270p, rather less than the other leaders. Reecman (29p) had touched 293p, while gains in Unilever (382p) and Court-audis (128p) were restricted to a few pence.

Tobacco shares stood out well, with Imperial Group 2 1/2p higher at 68 1/2p ahead of the interim statement. Buis gained 1 1/2p to 322p. Other international favourites had mixed fortunes. Reed Int (226p) were held back again by the plant closures in Scotland. Bowater (147p) led the market forward.

The squeeze was on among engineering shares, which have been unsettled during the debate over the Government's 10 per cent wage rise plan. GKN jumped 8p to 240p as the bears were forced in to buy stock. Tubes, at 265p and Metal Box at 260p also moved upward. Hawker Siddeley managed a 2p gain at 264p.

One of the market's busiest stocks was, once again, Hanson Trust, which put on another 10p to 170p as investors showed

technical buying from the bears which are unwilling to be caught if the market turns higher in the wake of gilts. But closing prices for National Westminster Banking (233p), for Lloyds (217p) and for Barclays (268p) showed not rises of only a few pence.

Oil shares took heart again after the setback which followed the Israeli raid on Lebanon, and helped again by some United States interest in late dealings. BP closed 16p up at 535p.

Equity turnover on Monday totalled £34.7m (11,651 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph: Bowater new, ICI, Shell, Glaxo new, Beecham, Redland, Distillers, Midland Bank, Barclays Bank, Hanson Trust.

Latest dividends

All dividends in new pence or appropriate currencies

Company

Ord div

Yrly Pay

Yrly Div

Yrly Div

Yrly Div

Yrly Div

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Yrly Div

Yrly Div

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LCP hit by interest as profits dip 8 pc

By Desmond Quigley

LCP Holdings report an 8 per cent drop in profits from £2.6m to £2.4m for the year to the end of March, largely due to a 42 per cent increase in interest charges from £570,000 to £807,000.

The company also revealed that towards the end of last month it raised a second £2m loan from the Midland Bank. Both loans are secured by a charge on the Pennine Trading Estate, releasing the original charge held by the bank on the group's other land and buildings. The terms of the original loan have been slightly altered so that the aggregate £4m will be repayable by June 1980, and will bear interest at 2 per cent above the base rate.

The estate has been valued at £12.3m as at the end of March, giving a surplus of £1.6m which has been adopted in the accounts, thus helping to boost consolidated group

capital and reserves by £2.6m to £15.1m.

The preliminary results show that turnover was boosted 19 per cent from £51.3m to £61.2m.

The drop in pre-tax profit came entirely from the first half, with the second half making a 12 per cent increase to £1.4m. However, profit increased at the trading level in the second half compared with the first, but it finished ahead for the full year at £3.31m compared with £2.84m.

All the divisions show improvements at the trading level, with the metals and construction side showing the biggest rises with 39 per cent and 22 per cent respectively. The property division, which made the largest contribution to trading profits at £861,000, only recorded a 8 per cent rise while the vehicle distribution side put on only £30,000, £487,000.

Singapore's ban on Haw Par remains

By David Mott

The Singapore Stock Exchange reaffirmed yesterday that it would not consider lifting its suspension of the shares of Haw Par Brothers International until the company fully complied with five requirements.

On Monday the London Stock Exchange restored the quotation because, it was said, it considered the Singapore ban to be ineffective.

The conditions are the receipt of a report from an independent accountant on HP's assets; a merchant bankers' independent view of the proposed Pernas deal; compliance with the Singapore Securities Industry and Council's ruling that Pernas must make an all-out bid for

HP; a similar compliance with the London ruling on an out HP bid for London T.

and the following of the options of the Singapore C.panies Act on takeover bid.

Turnover in HP shares on Hongkong exchange has been "minimal" since the announcement of the Pernas deal.

Richard Winsa, the secret said yesterday. No business done last week and the w before that only 11,500 shares changed hands, he said.

He was commenting reports from London that si brokers there had hoped that Singapore brokers had a dined to deal in Kuala Lum and Hongkong in spite of Singapore suspension.

Ropner slows up as its ships go into dry dock

Ropner Holdings (shipping, engineering, insurance brokers and property) is slowing down. In the year to March 31 last, turnover rose a bit from £7.66m to £7.72m and pre-tax profits climbed from £1.2m to £1.52m.

But in the first six months pre-tax profits soared from £553,000 to £981,000. In the latest year, moreover, profits were assisted by a fall in the share of loss less profits of associated companies from £270,473 to £81,522.

A fall in property losses could be responsible. The group has a 40 per cent stake and loans out to Greytown Property which got most of its finance from London Indemnity and General Insurance where a provisional liquidator was appointed.

Profits explode at Butterfield and outlook goes back

Butterfield-Harvey, the S. I. voke & Drewry discount G.A. carn and marine engine gro has not quite kept up its

spanking pace set in the first six months of its year March 31 last. But few a quibble with the leap fr £355,000 to £1,504,000 in p. tax profits for the full year.

The first half year they we up from £328,000 to £825,000. Sales rose from £24m to £31.26m.

In 1972-73 pre-tax prof were £1.2m and only £364,000 in 1969-70, the year Butterfield bought G. A. Harvey. I. directors say that despite a certain trading conditions in order load is reassuring in subsidiaries able to make the best profits.

Tunnel reports a difficult year



Mr J D Birkin, Chairman of Tunnel Holdings Limited, said in his review of the year ended 30 March 1975:

"It has been a hard and complicated year particularly in the cement operation. A combination of a 12% drop in national cement demand, seriously accelerating cost inflation, industrial relations problems and the fact that for virtually the whole year the Price Code prevented the operation of the Common Price Agreement, all led to lower production and deliveries.

Group Profit before taxation of £4,121m (last year £4,599m) must be assessed against this difficult background.

"Recent reorganisation has contributed savings which will become progressively more effective but, against a background of economic uncertainty and perilous inflation, it would not be wise to make any forecast for the current year."

Salient points from the Report and Accounts:

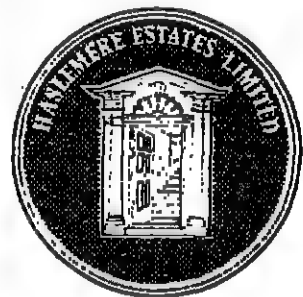
- unprecedented increases, particularly in energy and employment costs
- combined effect of inflation and severe drop in demand made cutbacks in both production and administrative areas inevitable
- sizeable export orders secured though at low margins in severely depressed markets
- increased contribution from associated companies with improving prospects for overseas interests
- maximum permitted dividend recommended, twice covered, totalling 8.1357p per unit for the year
- Company's liquidity remains strong

| | 1975 | 1974 |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Group Turnover | £44,125,000 | £35,337,000 |
| Profit before taxation | £4,121,000 | £4,599,000 |
| Profit after taxation | £2,143,000 | £2,307,000 |
| Earnings per share | 17.9p | 19.3p |
| Dividend per share | 8.1357p | 7.4925p |
| Profit retained | £950,000 | £390,000 |

The 64th Annual General Meeting of the Company will be held in London on 31st July, 1975.

Copies of the 1975 Report and Accounts may be obtained from The Secretary, Tunnel Holdings Limited, 16 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 9HT.

TUNNEL HOLDINGS LIMITED



Haslemere

Estates

Record Earnings

- * Earnings increased 44% to £1,084,000.
- * Dividend for 1974/75 will be maximum permitted and is covered more than twice by earnings.
- * Positive cash flow after charging all interest to revenue.
- * Combined portfolio of investment and trading properties: £104 million.
- * Borrowings as percentage of assets: 46%.

Chairman: Mr. F. E. Cleary, M.B.E., F.R.I.C.S.
4 Carlos Place, London, W1Y 5AE.



Concrete and Structural Steel Engineers, Builders' Suppliers, Plant Distributors and Contract Hire.

Optimistic view of 1975

| | 1971 | 1972 | 1973 | 1974 |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Net Sales | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Group Profit before Tax | 4,981 | 5,418 | 6,990 | 9,600 |
| Taxation | 271 | 411 | 593 | 536 |
| Group Profit after Tax | 117 | 167 | 285 | 306 |
| Earnings per share | 154 | 244 | 308 | 230 |
| After scrip issue | 8.5p | 10.7p | 13.2p | 9.8p |

Extracts from the circulated statement of the Chairman, Mr. D. B. McNeill:

- The Company weathered the stresses of 1974 and emerged from a challenging year with its turnover increased from £6.3m to £9.6m and a profit of £9,536m.
- The total dividend recommended of 2.51375p is the maximum permitted under Government legislation.
- The Plant Division continues to be busy and future prospects have been improved by the acquisition of several large and valuable agencies covering sales in both parts of Ireland.
- Aspects in the Building Services and Structural Division continue to be good and orders for concrete products will keep all our factories busy until 1978. McNeill Building Services, Portadown Foundry and Smyth Mills are busy and should continue to be so for some months to come.
- The Company, with its resources of professional skill and manufacturing capacity, is admirably placed to take full advantage of any revival when it comes.

Copies of the Report and Accounts are obtainable from the Secretary, 78 Duncruce Street, Belfast BT3 9AZ.

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